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BIRTHS.

On the 5th February, at Kobe, the wife of ARTHUR T. HELLIER, of a son.
On the 8th February, at Pendry, Bubbling Well Road, Shanghai, the wife of CHARLES R. SHAW, of a daughter.

MARRIAGES.

On the 6th February, at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. C. J. Fitz-simons, Symons, B.A., GEORGE FRANCIS CLEMENT, eldest son of AUSTIN DOBSON, LL.D., of Ealing, to JANET BLAIR, eldest daughter of THOMAS NEATBY, M.D., formerly of Hampstead.

On the 6th February, at 122, Rue Palikao, Shanghai, by the Rev. Young J. Allen, D.D., LL.D., the Rev. ALBERT C. BEWEN, to Miss JEANNE SANDERS.

On the 10th February, at H.B.M. Consulate-General, by Sir Pelham Warren, K.C.M.G., and afterwards at Holy Trinity Cathedral, Shanghai, by the Rev. C. J. Fitz-Simons Symons, B.A., WALTER ENGLAND, youngest son of JOHN MICHAEL WILSON, of Dublin, Ireland, to LINA LUISE, daughter of FRIEDERICH WILHELM KOCH, of Hamburg, Germany.

On the 11th February, at H.B.M. Consulate-General, Shanghai, by Sir Pelham Warren, K.C.M.G., and afterwards at Holy Trinity Cathedral, by the Rev. C. J. F. Symons, GERALD ARTHUR, younger son of E. W. TIDALL, of Dublin, Ireland, and Shanghai, to EMILY HARRIETTE, elder daughter of JOHN CRAIG THOMSON, of Limerick, Ireland.

DEATHS.

On the 4th February, at Hangchow, MALCOLM FINLEY, youngest child of the Rev. J. C. and Mrs. GARRITT, aged 8 months.

On the 6th February, at Kobe, ROBERT HUGHES, a native of Liverpool, England, aged 59 years.

On the 10th February, between Soochow and Shanghai, ABEL JOHNSON, I.M.C. Soochow, aged 51 years.

On the 11th February, at the Government Civil Hospital, Capt. WILLIAM HUTTON, of S.S. *Benlomond*.

On the 12th February, at Nagasaki, SARAH GOLDMAN, of Bardicheff, widow of the late SAMUEL GOLDMAN.

On the 17th February, at his residence, No. 48, Elgin Street, JOSE GABRIEL DA ROCHA, late accountant of the General Post Office, Hongkong. Deeply regretted.

Hongkong Weekly Press

HONGKONG OFFICE: 14, DES VŒUX ROAD CL.
LONDON OFFICE: 131, FLEET STREET, E.C.

ARRIVAL OF MAILS.

The German Mail arrived per s.s. *Roon* on the 18th inst.; and the French Mail of 23rd January, is expected to arrive per s.s. *Sydney* some time on Wednesday, the 24th inst.

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

The week's war telegrams will be found on p. 140.

Contractors have undertaken to complete the railway line across Lake Baikal by the 28th inst., or earlier.

A telegram received in S. Petersburg says the Japanese are bribing Tunguses to destroy the Manchurian railway.

Several cruisers and destroyers are preparing at Brest and Toulon to proceed to the Far East. Six thousand tons of coal-briquettes have been hastily despatched to Saigon.

The Russian warships *Oslabya*, *Aurora*, *Dmitri Donski*, and a number of torpedo-boat-destroyers have been ordered to remain at Jibutit until further orders.

About 1,500 or 1,600 people are calculated to be using the Canton-Fatshan line daily, but with regard to the construction of the main line we still hear of more employees being turned off.

Admiral Makaroff has left S. Petersburg. He supersedes Admiral Stark in command of the fleet at Port Arthur, and is accompanied by a large staff, including Engineers and Naval Architects.

Admiral Alexieff telegraphs that the torpedo-transport *Yenisei* has been blown up and sunk by accidentally striking a mine at Port Arthur. Captain Stepanoff, three officers, and 92 men were lost.

It is stated in S. Petersburg that there is a large movement of Japanese troops covered by cruisers proceeding to the Gulf of Liaotung with the object of cutting off the Manchurian railway near Port Arthur.

Russia has informed the United States that she will not grant an *exequatur* to Mr. Morgan, the United States Consul at Dalny, because she desires no foreign officials in the Liaotung peninsula during the war.

Admiral Alexieff admits that attempts have been made to wreck the Manchurian railway and to blow up the bridge at Sungari. He says these attempts were noticed in time, and the line is now closely guarded.

Reports from up-country reaching Canton point to a very serious state of affairs for the agriculturist. If the rains do not come very soon, it is feared that nothing can avert a repetition of last year's famine.

A Legation despatch from Tokyo says that no attempt has yet been made by the Japanese to land near Pigeon Bay or its neighbourhood, that no Japanese vessel has been destroyed, and that the fighting power of the Japanese fleet is practically unimpaired.

The only reference to the attack on Port Arthur on the 14th instant published in S. Petersburg is the statement that a 12 in. shell struck and slightly damaged the Volunteer steamer *Kozau* (P). The Japanese believe that the warship torpedoed was the cruiser *Boyarin*.

It is stated in S. Petersburg that General Ivanoff, the Governor of Turkestan, has been instructed to prepare for possible military action in the direction of India in the event of Great Britain adopting an attitude openly hostile to Russia or attempting any enterprise in Persia or Tibet prejudicial to Russian interests.

A Russian destroyer has been ordered to leave Port Said. After a Government survey an application by Russia for permission to dock a destroyer at Suez has been refused. In addition to this the Austrian collier *Java*, chartered for Port Arthur, has been treated as a belligerent and ordered to leave Port Said immediately; she is now discharging.

Mr. Hay has addressed a note to the Powers, asking if they are willing to join in a notice to Russia and Japan that during hostilities and thereafter, the neutrality and integrity of China must be recognised. France has accepted the Note regarding the neutrality of China; and Great Britain has agreed in principle. It is expected that Russia will also concur.

An official Japanese Note published in Paris says Japan has advised China to remain neutral with a view to reducing the evils of war to a minimum, although she is well aware of the advantages to be derived from an alliance with China. She now urges China to take effectual measures to protect strategic points and to prevent belligerents from violating Chinese neutrality; from making Chinese ports bases of operations; or from their being used as places of refuge.

The Tsar has issued a manifesto, bitterly inveighing against Japan, in which he declares that much time is now necessary to strike blows worthy of the dignity and the might of Russia; Japan's treachery and provocation, however, will yet be avenged a hundred fold. Reuter says: The remarkable wording of the Tsar's recent Manifesto, admitting impliedly, the unpreparedness of Russia and foreshadowing a long delay before decisive action is taken, is much commented on. The *Times* considers it means a war of exhaustion and another wholesale retreat similar to that from Moscow, leaving Port Arthur and Vladivostok isolated. This, the *Times* observes, is a great resolve, but its success depends on the will of the enemy.

The Russian refugees from the *Varyag* and *Koreetz* picked up by H.M.S. *Talbot* at Chemulpo on the 9th inst. are coming down on H.M.S. *Amphitrite*. Such of them as are able to be moved will be taken on to Colombo in the Indo-China steamer *Namsang*, being transferred to her in Mirs Bay. We understand that some 40 of them, the most seriously wounded, will be placed in hospital here, the local Government having already been warned to prepare beds for them. The remainder of them, over 100 in number, will be sent on to Colombo, to be lodged in the camps previously occupied by the Boer prisoners who were detained in Ceylon. Six officers, two colour-sergeants, and 50 marines will be placed on the *Namsang* to escort the Russians down to Colombo.

JAPAN AND RUSSIA.

(Daily Press, 13th February.)

A very general misapprehension seems to exist that the rupture in the relations of Russia and Japan was solely brought about by the insistence of Japan on the evacuation of Manchuria; and that had some compromise on this delicate topic be brought about through the medium of the other Powers the danger of war would have been indefinitely postponed. The question at issue is, on the contrary, a very much wider one, and one of long standing. Those who remember the feeling aroused in England from 1866, when General CHERNAIEFF, against the direct commands of the Tsar ALEXANDER II., took possession of Khokand, and when General KAUFMANN made his attack on Khiva in face of the protestations to the contrary of the Russian Government, will likewise remember the warnings uttered by the better informed classes, and the indifference of the mob, at the moment the ruling power at home. England in fact was in the throes of a revolution, none the less real that it was bloodless, and forgot for the time the interests of the Empire, and the Tsars were too feeble at home to put any effective check on the actions of their contumacious commanders abroad. Neither can afford to look back at the period with feelings of altogether unmixed satisfaction; England has had to pay the penalty in a long and costly war for the preservation of her colonial empire, while Russia has survived to see her home empire reduced to a state bordering on revolution, and the power of her Tsars reduced to a stage not seen since the time of the last successors of the Imperial KARL. Like the Carolingian monarchs the Tsars have been seeking by conquests beyond their powers abroad to make up for the rottenness within. The inglorious overrunning of the Khanates only served to inflame the lust of conquest for its own sake, and so, while at home the fabric of empire was yielding before the corruption and decay of the court, abroad the boundaries of the state were being continually advanced; but this absorption of the neighbouring territories had within itself the true elements of weakness, nor was any attempt made to consolidate the conquests. The Khanates, thirty years after their nominal annexation, are internally as unsettled as they were in the days of their former Mohammedan rulers, and the people are still as rude and unsettled. On one point alone is there any unanimity of feeling, and that is in their intense hatred and contempt for their present rulers. Every attempt to extend the rule of the Tsar in these regions has only had the effect of weakening that rule by increasing the number of the discontented; the wiser heads amongst the Russians have for some years foreseen this cause of weakness, but amidst the general madness their voices have been stifled, while on the continually decreasing number of the well affected is being thrown the ever-growing burden of maintaining the stability of the entire structure. But even wiser and cooler heads than at present conduct the affairs of the empire may well be affrighted at the outlook, and there is little doubt that the principal impelling force actuating at the moment the advisers of the Tsar is fear, a conscious feeling that if once the *vis inertiae* of advance were from any cause checked, the opposing forces would instantly take advantage of the lull to drive back the hitherto irresistible torrent. To expect,

then, the Russian Government, however peaceful might be the feelings of its individual constituents, to take a backward step under the pressure of public feeling would, every Russian officer, civil or military, opine be to invite discomfiture. Russia has carefully taught her subject peoples that the only law she recognises is that of the stronger, and so plain an acknowledgment of weakness would be the only argument, according to her own showing, needed to justify the act of rebellion. This is really the actuating motive for the late appearance of hesitation. Russia feels that she has too long inculcated the gospel of force as the only right to change now with impunity her methods, and that, as she has acted towards others, she must now expect others to act towards her. Japan's diplomacy and knowledge of the world in the present crisis has won the admiration of the whole world by the clever way in which she placed Russia on the horns of a dilemma, and forced her into a position from which there was no escape without loss of prestige.

There has been shown a disposition in certain quarters to attribute to England a desire to push Japan forward, and compel her to take on her shoulders the burden of the day, while she herself stands at one side to enjoy the possible benefits of the fight—much as did Germany during the Crimean War; and seemingly the manner in which England has hitherto refrained from taking a hand, outwardly at least, in the game might seem to lend some countenance to the suggestion. There are, however, other considerations which anyone who has carefully studied the course hitherto adopted by Japan must see were influential in shaping England's line of action. It is, for instance, evident that if England had joined Japan in playing a similar game of bluff and bluster to that adopted by Russia she would, so far from helping, have seriously interfered with the effect of Japan's masterly diplomacy. But there is another reason, probably more powerful with our home statesmen. Russia's recent course of conduct has been as offensive to England as it has been to Japan herself. Her intrigues in Afghanistan, in Persia, and lately in Tibet, have placed England in the position of having to take up the affair in her own interest. The points here are too serious, and we may add, too personal to permit any British Minister to allow them to be mixed up with any outside question. If, in fact, the attempted wrongs on the part of Russia should compel us to take up arms on our own account our Ministers are wise in determining that the ground of quarrel shall be clear and distinct. If Russia have many sins of commission or even omission to answer for with respect to Japan, she has at least as many to atone for in her relations towards England. We may lay to one side any suggestion as to being influenced in our relations towards Russia by any feeling of panic. We have studied Russia's points of strength as well as those of her weakness, and are not likely to be led into any contest unprepared. If unfortunately Russia, in her desire to cut a way out of an entanglement entirely of her own weaving, should not comprehend the advisability of stopping in time, we are quite prepared, with or without Japan, to leave our quarrels to the final arbitrament of war. If Russia feel that her recent policy is of a nature to enable her to take up arms with an easy conscience, she will explain what are the considerations that entitle her to a calm and dispassionate hearing, and may rest assured that for war for its own sake we have no longing.

THE WAR.

(Daily Press, 15th February.)

No very startling development in affairs in the North has been witnessed since our issue of Saturday. The engagement off Aomori, in the northern part of Hondo, the main island of the Japanese Empire, shows what has become of Russia's Vladivostock squadron since the outbreak of war. The strait which runs between Hondo and Hokkaido is roughly opposite Vladivostock, some 450 miles away. Four Russian cruisers, whose names are unknown, proceeding along the coast of Northern Japan met two steamers, one of 1,073 tons and the other of 233 tons, and sunk the larger, while the smaller escaped to Fukuyama, on the Hokkaido coast. Then, according to the telegram forwarded by the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha, the Russian ships seem to have fallen in with a Japanese torpedo-flotilla, possibly searching for Russian vessels, and to have suffered so heavily as to lose three of their number. Without details this is rather hard to understand, unless the torpedo-boats succeeded in delivering a night attack on their larger foes. Official confirmation must be awaited, and we have yet to hear the Russian version. As regards the Port Arthur fighting, we now have, by the courtesy of the Japanese Consul, the substance of Admiral Togo's official report. It does not add much to our knowledge, but helps to correct previous information. The Russian vessels succeeded in gaining safety in the inner harbour of Port Arthur on the 9th instant. Admiral Togo, who is the Naval Commander-in-Chief on the Japanese side, confines himself to stating the Japanese losses, which were very slight—four men killed and fifty-four wounded—and does not guess at the Russian figures; nor does he say that any Russian ships were badly disabled, though this we know from Admiral ALEXIEFF's admissions. Of course there may have been more in the report on this point. It does not seem that the entrance to Port Arthur harbour is blocked by a sunken warship, as alleged in some telegrams. The Japanese, after their victorious brush with the two Russian vessels off Chemulpo and their landing at that port, have now occupied Seoul, and are no doubt preparing to meet any Russian land advance. Since we heard of a Russian concentration in the Yalu Valley we have had no news of Russia's activity in that quarter. It is impossible to believe that she is not active, however.

The news from St. Petersburg is interesting. Consternation reigns, a panic is occurring on the Bourse, Government securities are experiencing heavy falls, and some banks are on the verge of ruin. The successes of Japan have struck Russia "all of a heap." The Tsar is credited with a ridiculous speech to the effect that "a treacherous foe has in the darkness of the night attacked our fortress (? and) fleet." It appears as if the Tsar expected the Japanese to invite his fleet out from Port Arthur or, as in the old Maori days in New Zealand, to fix a day on which they would be willing to come and fight there. But the Tsar is now a very much discredited personage. He might well think of his speech a month ago in the Council Chamber at St. Petersburg, "Am I the Emperor of Russia or am I not? Am I the Emperor of Peace, or am I not?" The Emperor of Peace has allowed his Ministers to force a little nation into war, and now does not like the consequences. The Tsar NICHOLAS stands revealed as a weakling. He may

believe his Finance Minister's statement that "though temporary difficulties are possible, Russia's economic power is unshakable"; other people will not believe it. As to the accusation of treachery, it is to be noted that, according to REUTER, even the German papers, the least friendly to Japan, ridicule the Russian talk of treachery because the Japanese attacked them without a declaration of war. The British papers, as was to be expected, congratulate Japan on her brilliant commencement. What is the attitude in France we have yet to learn. The Republic is getting ready cruisers and destroyers for the Far East, but this is not necessarily a bad sign. It is a precautionary measure which no doubt all the Powers will take. It is rather to be wondered at that we do not hear any more of the ships which were coming from the Mediterranean squadron to reinforce our China fleet. The *King Alfred* is now here and will presumably stay until peace is restored, but we still look for those two battleships mentioned some time ago. It is all important at the present moment that Great Britain shall be as strong as possible in the China seas. The end of the present crisis cannot be foreseen, and we must be prepared for all eventualities. We all trust that we shall be spared the necessity of intervention, but should the need ever come we must intervene with force that shall decide the question. We are not in a position to do so yet.

(Daily Press, 18th February.)

The apparent lull in war operations continues. At Port Arthur the situation is reported unchanged. The Japanese therefore seem to be contenting themselves with watching the damaged Russian fleet there, too sharp a look-out being kept, no doubt, to permit another torpedo attack being made. The actual extent of the injury done to the Russians warships will probably not be known for some time to come. It seems absolutely certain, however, that in the night attack, on the 8th instant, the battleships *Tsarevitch* and *Retvizan* and the cruiser *Pallada* were all badly damaged, the last-named being either sunk or run aground; the *Retvizan* appears to be also aground outside the harbour, while the *Tsarevitch* has been taken inside. On the 9th instant the battleship *Poltava* and the cruisers *Askold*, *Diana* and *Novik* were damaged, the last of them seriously, while our Shanghai correspondent now reports the *Askold* founded. We may assume that the *Retvizan*, *Pallada*, *Askold* and *Novik* will be unable to fight any more during this war. In addition the Russian fleet has lost in the past ten days the *Koreetz* and *Varyag* at Chemulpo and the torpedo-transport *Yenisei* by accident at Port Arthur. As for the Vladivostock cruisers, all that can be said is that we know not what has happened to them. There is a Russian cruiser, the *Mandjour*, which left Shanghai last week and has not been heard of since. It may be taken that she has not been captured, but her chance of reaching a Russian port must be small. Neutrality rules will confront her elsewhere, so that the outlook for her is not bright. Our London correspondent announces the capture of six Russian colliers by the Japanese, and the steamers *Nonni*, *Moukden*, and some others, whose names are uncertain, have been captured, and the *Sungari* sunk. On the Japanese side no injury to warships is actually known to have occurred, but one steamer has been sunk on the Northern coast of the main island. The balance is tremendously in favour of Japan, and leaves her to start the second stage of the war, by

land, with a control of the Gulf of Pechili. She has already taken advantage of this fact to land 20,000 troops in Chemulpo and to occupy Seoul. Whether she has also occupied Fusan is unknown, but this is probable. She could do so without the fact becoming public property, owing to the efficient censorship exercised. Russia's land movements continue unknown. Possibly we shall not hear of them until the Russian and Japanese troops are actually in contact. We are warned to look for a check to Japan when this happens. As a matter of fact, no one can venture to prophesy at all what will happen then. All we do know is that Japan, by her control of the Gulf of Pechili, has the power of taking the Russians in the flank if they advance southward into Corea, and that she will do so there can be no doubt. We cannot expect, however, to hear of great operations on these lines just yet. What is to be anticipated is desultory news about naval movements, including those of the *Nisshin* and *Kasuga*, rumoured safe in a Japanese port, and of Admiral VIRENIUS's squadron from the Mediterranean.

(Daily Press 22nd February.)

The principal news of the past two days is conveyed by REUTER's telegram of the 19th instant, published in another column to-day. We have already learnt that the Tsar has issued a Manifesto couched in bitter language, in which he declared that "much time is necessary to strike blows worthy of the dignity and the might of Russia; Japan's treachery and provocation, however, will yet be avenged a hundredfold." Further details of the Manifesto put rather a different aspect on it, for it is now stated to forecast, by implication, a long delay before decisive action is taken. Russia's unpreparedness is also gathered, a fact which has long been suspected and which led so many to anticipate that she would ultimately give way rather than risk a war. Commenting on the Manifesto, the London *Times*, which has still, in spite of the troubles befalling it in connection with its representative at St. Petersburg, more than usual means of obtaining information from sources in Russia, infers that Russia intends to fight a war of exhaustion and to imitate the policy which was adopted against the Great NAPOLEON when he attempted the impossible task of invading Russia. That policy was one of retreat. Applied to the present case, it means that Russia will retire, leaving the Japanese to follow her. As the *Times* observes, this is a great resolve, but its success depends on the will of the enemy. It is supposed that Russia means to hold only Port Arthur and Vladivostock, withdrawing her troops from Manchuria and North-eastern Siberia, leaving the Japanese armies to follow until they exhaust themselves. One comment on this seems obvious. When NAPOLEON pursued the defeated Russians to Moscow he was trusting in the immensity of his forces, gathered from all parts of Europe. The Japanese at the present moment are in a case far different from that of NAPOLEON. They have only their own forces, the exact proportions of which they know, to draw upon, and they have before them the disastrous example of the French. Japan has shown herself so sagacious that it is impossible to conceive that she will fall into the blunder of NAPOLEON. If she contents herself with cutting off Port Arthur and Vladivostock and with occupying and fortifying Corea, it is difficult to see why she should commit any strategical error. The isolated ports must fall, through starvation; and the Manchurian Railway being

broken up, as it would be if Russia were obliged to cease to guard it, there seems to be no reason why Japan should not acquire an impregnable position. Japan can afford to wait. She has no inducement to press forward, having nothing to gain. The evacuation of Manchuria and the loss of her two strongholds means absolute defeat to Russia. She has no naval reserves in Europe sufficient to restore her position in North Chinese waters, and in the face of a resolute and civilised foe her re-advance in North-east Asia would be a stupendous task. Unless the Japanese Government loses its head, there is no reason whatever why it should imitate the historical error of pursuing the Parthian retreat. All that is required is to destroy the means of return and to consolidate the defence against any such possibility. Russia's retreat at the present juncture gives China her opportunity. Overshadowed during recent years by her aggressive neighbour Russia, China has grown weaker and weaker. But if the Russians are compelled to withdraw from Chinese territory and Japanese influence grows sufficiently at the court of Peking, strong enough bulwarks should be built up in China to prevent the damaged Russian power from creeping back again. It is hinted that the "Yellow Peril" cry will be revived again. As long as Great Britain and the United States of North America refuse to be frightened, this bogey should cease to be able to scare the world. Russia has still a power, it must be admitted, in the Press of France and Germany; but that power is much weakened, and the "Peril" has sunk to the level of popular art, as illustrated in the German Kaiser's celebrated cartoon in 1900. Hitherto it has been customary to treat the Asiatic nations as mere prey and their territories as spoil for the nations of the West. It is beginning to be learnt that such a view does not make for the peace of the Occidental Powers. A strong Japan and a strong China, it is now felt, will not damage the European peoples, but rather tend to deprive them of reasons for strife. The lesson has been a hard one to learn, but its acquirement should be productive of peace in the world.

THE NEUTRALITY QUESTION.

(Daily Press, 16th February.)

Among the telegrams published this morning is one of no little international interest. Therein it is announced that a Russian torpedo-boat destroyer, for which permission to dock at Port Said has been applied for and refused, was ordered to leave the port; and that an Austrian collier, chartered for Port Arthur, was treated as a belligerent and ordered to leave Port Said, in consequence of which she discharged her cargo. On Saturday we published a Singapore telegram of the 12th instant, stating that the Russian Volunteer cruiser *Voronej*, which arrived that morning, bound for Odessa, had been ordered to leave by 9 a.m. next morning. These orders have been given in pursuance of the Proclamation of Neutrality issued throughout the British dominions on the 12th instant. This proclamation, in view of the war which has broken out between Japan and Russia, laid down the rules of neutrality to be observed by His Majesty's subjects in and during the war. The portion of this document which concerns the events mentioned in the telegrams alluded to above may be briefly summarised as follows:—

(1.) All ships of war of either belligerent are forbidden to use any British ports as stations or places of resort for warlike purposes or to sail from any port subject to

British jurisdiction from which any vessel of the other belligerent shall have sailed within the previous 24 hours.

(2.) Any ship of war of either belligerent entering a British port shall be required to put to sea within 24 hours after entrance, except in stress of weather or when acquiring provisions or things necessary for her crew, in which case she must depart as soon as possible after the 24 hours and must only take on board what is necessary for immediate use. The proviso concerning a departure of not less than 24 hours after that of a ship of the other belligerent is of course taken into consideration.

(3.) No ship of war of either belligerent shall be permitted, while in a British port, to take in any supplies except provisions and such other things as may be requisite for her crew, and except such coal as may be sufficient to carry her to the nearest port of her own country or to some nearer destination. Moreover, no coal shall again be supplied in the same or any other British port, without special permission, until after the expiration of three months.

(4.) Armed ships of either party are forbidden to bring their prizes into British ports.

Two further rules were issued by proclamation in a *Government Gazette Extraordinary* here, yesterday to the following effect:—

1. During the continuation of hostilities no coal should be supplied to warship of either belligerent power except on the written authorisation of the Harbour Master specifying the amount of coal which may be supplied.

2. Before issuing any authorisation for the supply of coal to any belligerent warship the Harbour Master shall obtain a written declaration, duly signed by the officer commanding such warship, of the destination to which she is proceeding and of the amount of coal already on board.

Such are the rules with regard to the observance of neutrality in force in Hongkong to-day, as in other parts of the British Empire. They are the natural consequence of a Proclamation of Neutrality, and similar rules must be in force in the dominions of all countries that declare themselves neutral. Now all the leading Powers have intimated their intention of observing neutrality; but in the majority of cases no proclamation has yet been made. We read in *REUTER'S* telegram of the 18th instant that the Russian cruisers *Dmitri Donskoi*, *Aurora*, and six destroyers had already proceeded from Suez to Jibuti, where they coaled and were to remain till the 18th instant, awaiting the arrival of the battleship *Oslabya*, the transport *Saratoff*, and three destroyers which had already left Suez, and of several torpedo-boats and transports then in the Canal. France had not then and has not yet, as far as we know, actually proclaimed neutrality, so that there was nothing illegal in the hospitality accorded to the Russian squadron at Jibuti. Yet this was certainly a contravention of the virtual promise of neutrality, and is distinctly an action of friendship toward Russia. It would be interesting to know whether, if the *Nisshin* and *Kasuga* had sailed from Singapore to a port on the Indo-China coast, they would have met with the same treatment. It has been rumoured in the Colony that those two cruisers have proceeded to some foreign port between Singapore, avoiding Hongkong, it is to be presumed, because of the proclamation being anticipated immediately after the declaration of war. It may now be expected that the other Powers of Europe will follow the example of Great

Britain and proclaim neutrality in due form. Otherwise affairs remain in a very anomalous position—although, as Britain possesses nearly all the coaling-stations between the Mediterranean and the Farthest East, it is Britain's action which is the most important.

BIAS IN WAR NEWS.

(*Daily Press*, 19th February.)

Evidence of the curious, though very natural, effect of personal sympathy on the appreciation of facts may be now seen in the form in which the recent events up North have been related to the outside world. Even if we take so narrow a field in which to look for examples as the European Press of the Far East alone, we shall find plenty. In Hongkong we have heard a good deal about the Port Arthur bombardments, and every account practically has tallied in representing the Russian losses as serious and the Japanese as incon siderable. Turning to the Shanghai papers, we find those published in the English language supplying similar news to our own. But if we look at the French journal *L'Echo de Chine* we find a very different tale. In its issue of the 12th inst. is published a despatch ascribed to a special correspondent in Port Arthur telegraphing two days previously, announcing an unsuccessful attack by the Japanese fleet, which had to retire with heavy loss (*après avoir subi de grosses pertes*). "No loss on the Russian side," concludes this message. Now it might be thought that this story had an equal chance of being true with any other which could not be verified at once. But it is of course contradicted by Admiral ALEXIEFF's admissions. However, *L'Echo de Chine* publishes just underneath its "Port Arthur" despatch an undated Paris telegram reporting injuries to the *Tsarevitch* and *Pallada* and damage to the pumping-apparatus of the *Retvizan* in the night attack, and next day slight injuries below the water-line to the *Pallada*, *Diana*, *Askold*, and *Novik*, with a loss of nine men killed. Below this telegram, again, is the following "official news" from St. Petersburg:—"The cowardly and treacherous attack of the Japanese before the declaration of war has not had the success announced by the Japanese. All the vessels indicated are afloat with their engines and armament intact, of which the Japanese might have persuaded themselves by the effect of the shells from these vessels." Further *L'Echo* learns that three Japanese warships were very seriously damaged during the second attack on Port Arthur, the *Yashima*, *Asama*, and *Naniwa*. The general trend of these contradictory reports is to make out that the Japanese, to use a popular expression, took little change out of Port Arthur. If this were really so, it would indeed be surprising that the Russian fleet seems to have been helplessly prisoner in Port Arthur harbour since the night of the 8th instant. We do not claim that all the news which we have received from the North is to be accepted as the plain statement of the facts of the war so far, though it agrees fairly with the general account of things in the Shanghai papers. We must admit that we have the Japanese and pro-Japanese version; while *L'Echo de Chine* has the pro-Russian account. And this brings us back to our original point, that telegrams tend to be curiously, though naturally, biased by the sympathies of the senders. No correspondent, or no reputable correspondent at least, sets out deliberately to misrepresent the facts; but he cannot help being influenced by his sympathies to such an extent as to make him not

quite the equivalent of the truthful witness on oath. Further proof of this will no doubt be forthcoming when we get the written accounts of the actual spectators of the Port Arthur engagements. Those correspondents who were fortunate enough to have been in Port Arthur on the 8th instant and subsequent days will have a lot to say about the attacks on the Russian fleet, and most interesting reading-matter should be forthcoming. But we cannot expect that there will not be considerable divergences, as in the brief telegraphic accounts which we have already received. Such effects of sympathy with one or other of the combatants are impossible to avoid. In official despatches facts may be purposely suppressed or exaggerated. A veracious writer may produce the same result by mere human error. Impartiality is very difficult of attainment.

HONGKONG JOTTINGS.

(*Daily Press*, 15th February.)

China New Year's Eve arrives with all Northernmost Asia in a turmoil and the whole East in excitement. Even those careless of outside news, as the Southern Chinese are wont to be, seem anxious to know what is happening. Local Chinese papers have gone the length of publishing pink "Extras" detailing the latest from the North. I do not know whether Canton shares the anxiety of Chinese Hongkong or goes to the length of special editions. Certainly our natives are not apathetic about the crisis, even though New Year festivities must necessarily occupy their thoughts a good deal just now and for the next few days.

No new-comer should fail to visit the western end of the town to-day, if he has not already done so, since the thoughts of the Chinese have turned to their annual holiday. The streets wear the aspect of an English country fair—with a difference. The stalls are there, lining each side of the principal thoroughfares, and the people throng in the streets. But it is not such a scene of "bustle and jollity, business, frivolity" as, for example, the Cockney associates with his Mile End Road. He will miss the raucous shouting, the boisterous merriment of the vendors of small wares, and also the shows which he ranks prominently in the "fun of the fair," but he will nevertheless see a great deal to interest him. Many of the stalls bear collections of Chinese art and manufactures such as only persistent bargain-hunters can discover at any other time of the year, and by taking advantage of the vendor's desire to have as much cash in hand as possible by the closing hour of the year it is possible to pick up many excellent little "bargains." It is also possible now as at any time to pay for an article twice its value. When after purchasing an article at half the price originally asked the vendor added into the bargain the consolatory remark "you b'long no foolo," I asked him if it was his experience that "foleign men b'long foolo," and he replied: "Plenty foleign men b'long foolo, but foleign women, they more savee."

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Apropos of the approach of the New Year, with its deafening and continuous explosion of crackers and the beating of gongs, I have thought that it may dispose the Westerner to think charitably of the noise if I mention that an American physician, whose observations appear in a paper called the *Medical Brief*, holds that noise has an excellent effect in a great many cases of illness. He says that a patient of his was at the point of death. He had received the last rites of the Church, the pulse had ceased, and he had fallen into the state of coma which ordinarily precedes death. Suddenly he awoke in the next house struck up the "Avril Chorus" from *Il Trovatore*—not a bad substitute for Chinese gongs. Then the patient's pulse began to beat again, he opened his eyes and began to hum the tune. This was the turning point, and was followed by complete recovery. Who, after this, will not welcome the New Year with all its attendant

noises? I have at times thought that something should be done to abate a lot of the unnecessary "toot-tooting" of steam launches early in the morning, but after this discovery I will refrain from making the suggestion, lest I stand some day in danger of expiring through sheer want of noise.

Now that we have to put up with the naval dock in the heart of the city I suppose we must make the best of it. It was objected before the commencement of the work, and I have heard the objection raised even recently that the construction of the dock would lead to the silting of the harbour, and give rise to most offensive smells in the neighbourhood of the Club. As a matter of fact, these fears have not been realised, and so far as the silting objection is concerned it has been absolutely disproved. There is no more silting in this part of the harbour now than there was before the dock was commenced—probably very much less, as shipping men have noticed that the construction of the dock has had the effect of considerably increasing the strength of the current in the harbour, and that in itself would do the work of a dredger.

The subject of street nuisances is one which has been attracting a good deal of attention of late. But there is one which has not been mentioned by any of the letter-to-the-Editor men that cries for remedy as much as any of the other evils. And that is the practice that prevails in the neighbourhood of new buildings, of masons working granite in the public street or in such close proximity to it as to menace the safety of the eyes of people walking on the street. During one day at the end of last week the pavement at one of the most congested parts of Queen's Road—the foot of D'Aguiar Street—was taken up by masons chipping granite, to the interruption of traffic as well as to the danger of pedestrians' eyes. When granite has to be worked on the street, the police should see that a shield or wooden barrier is erected to keep the splinters from invading the thoroughfare.

It had been proposed at first to wind up the very successful series of monthly dances promoted by the Masonic Quadrille Club with a big ball in the City Hall—a fancy dress ball was even suggested—but now it has been definitely decided to have the last dance of the season in the same place as the others took place in, the Masonic Hall in Zetland Street. These dances have been very popular and enjoyable; their success tells of hard work on the part of Mr. H. W. Wolfe and Mr. G. J. W. King, the president and late secretary. With the incoming of the summer, the Club is not to be dissolved. It is proposed, I understand, during the hot months to have fortnightly launch-picnics. This departure should appeal to all, and will no doubt draw many new members into the Club. The membership now numbers nearly 150.

(Daily Press, 22nd February.)

The attention of Hongkong and of the Colony's numerous visitors is rapidly being concentrated on the Races, which begin to-morrow; and, as there is a great dearth of war news, there is little to distract our attention—except, of course, the calls of business. I am rather tempted to envy our friends from Shanghai who come down for China New Year and are stopping over the Race Meeting. When can we in Hongkong take as long a holiday? Yet I noticed in a local paper recently that a correspondent's appeal to the Editor to say whether we did not have too few holidays in Hongkong was met by a stern negative. From an Editor, of all men, this was cruel. But I am given to understand that Editors have so much grown to like constant work that they expect other and non-editorial men to do the same. This week, however, even in Hongkong, is claimed as an almost universal holiday after about 12 o'clock in the morning. We only want a continuance of the present delightful weather to make the holiday a very pleasant one. Some people, no doubt, will add that they also want a few winners.

A gentleman who has made a study of the defences of Hongkong—that is to say, as far as

a mere civilian can study them—points out to me the utter inadequacy of the protection provided for the very heart of the island's vitality, Tytam Reservoir. From the direction of Waglan the great retaining wall of the reservoir could be destroyed with a few accurately placed shells and Hongkong made practically uninhabitable or liable to capitulation to an enemy. Of course such an occurrence is a remote contingency, but recent events at Port Arthur have shown how swift-moving warships can rush in and strike hard and sure and get away again in safety. The Engineers are engaged at present in constructing a new military road up the hill which stands on the north of Tytam, so that it looks as if the Garrison authorities are at last going to provide batteries to cover the waterworks.

I note that the *Times* correspondent at this port has fallen into an error, whether intentional or the fruits of carelessness I am unable to say. Referring to the despatch by the China Association of a telegram to Mr. Chamberlain in support of his scheme of fiscal reform, he says that the Chamber of Commerce, being a cosmopolitan body, has decided not to discuss the question. I do not think the Chamber of Commerce did anything of the kind; the question was not, I believe, before the Committee even, and certainly was not laid before the members. He then adds that arrangements had been "made by leading journals to hold a plebiscite on the 16th inst. of the leading British community." The truth is that the arrangements were made, not by the Press, but by half a dozen leading residents, mostly members of the Legislative Council, for the plebiscite to be held, and to them was due both the inception and carrying out of this idea.

When, I wonder, is the Bill to authorise the construction of the projected new tramway to the Victoria Gap to be read in the Legislative Council. I hear that the Secretary of State gave his sanction to such a Bill being introduced some time ago, so I presume it will shortly come on for first reading. This projected line is of importance to the Colony not so much by reason of its affording an alternative route to the heights and also providing for the ever growing traffic to the Peak District, but as giving access to the upper levels of the City of Victoria. There will be stations for Caine, Robinson, and Conduit Roads, and residents on those levels will then become practically relieved from their present dependence on the chair-coolies who periodically strike for higher wages or treat their employers to a special outburst of insolence. At present it is possible to run the line up the route surveyed, but a few years hence this might become impossible through growth of buildings or vested interests. It is well therefore to seize the opportunity, and the promoters are acting with foresight and enterprise.

For refined cruelty it is difficult to find any worse examples than the Chinese. The love of inflicting pain seems to be as strong in the child as in the adult. In Wellington Street the other day I saw a crowd of Chinese children gloating over the agonies of a tiny mouse, to whose tail they had tied a large piece of newspaper. To cap their joke one of the youthful torturers set the paper alight. A young lady who was passing promptly came to the rescue and soundly cuffed as many of the boys as she could get at. In the same neighbourhood my notice was attracted by a beautiful butterfly that was flying very low, as if in distress of some sort. So it was. Close examination showed that a long piece of blue yarn was tied to its body, and its agonised flight was being watched with apparent delight by a crowd of Chinese men and boys.

A sportsman who was out pigeon-shooting in the New Territory had a curious experience. He was concealed in the bushes below some trees while his companion was driving the birds in. As he was waiting for a shot a huge hawk came swooping down towards him. Thinking it was going to attack him he lifted his gun to fire whereupon the bird gave a loud scream, dropped something from its claws, and flew off in another direction. The object which the hawk had let fall proved to be a half-grown

chicken, alive, but so severely mauled that it died shortly afterwards. What with foxes and these hawks, the rearing of poultry in the New Territory is said to be next to an impossibility at this season of the year.

BANYAN.

THE WAR.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENTS.]

Kobe, 11th February.

An Imperial Rescript declaring war against Russia has been issued.

Kobe, 12th February.

Admiral Togo, the Commander-in-Chief of the Japanese squadron, reports that at noon on the 8th inst. the Japanese torpedo-boat destroyers attacked the Russian warships at Port Arthur. It is believed that four Russian vessels were damaged. Next morning the Japanese squadron attacked the Russians, who, the Admiral believed, were much damaged. The Japanese damages were slight. Casualties amounted to about 4 killed and 54 wounded.

Singapore, 12th February.

The Russian Volunteer cruiser *Voronej*, bound for Odessa from the North, has arrived here and leaves at 9 a.m. to-morrow under neutrality rules, the proclamation having been promulgated to-day.

The local garrison is ready for mobilisation.

Kobe, 12th February.

It is officially stated that the Russians are bombarding Fukuyama at the entrance to the Tsugaru Straits (separating the main island from Hokaido), sinking on their way the Japanese merchant steamer *Nakamura Maru*.

Kobe, 13th February.

The bombardment of Fukuyama is untrue. The authorities were misled by a report which speculators appear to have originated. The sinking of the merchant steamer is, however, correct.

Singapore, 13th February.

All the Japanese naval reservists at Singapore have been ordered to return to Japan.

Shanghai, 15th February.

It is ascertained that the Russian cruiser *Askold*, reported to have been damaged at Port Arthur, really foundered.

Japan's refusal to recognise the neutrality of Corea has alarmed the Government at Peking.

London, 16th February.

Negotiations have been concluded by Russia for the purchase of some large transports at Antwerp.

The Russian squadron under Admiral Virenius, now on its way out East, has been ordered to remain at Jibuti.

Six Russian colliers have been captured by the Japanese.

Kobe, 17th February.

Admiral Togo, commander-in-chief of the Japanese Fleet, has reported to headquarters that his torpedo fleet on Sunday night, the 14th inst., advanced to make another attack on the Russian ships at Port Arthur. They were fired upon from the forts. The *Asagiri*, however, discharged a torpedo against a Russian ship, but owing to the darkness the effect was not ascertained.

Singapore, 18th February.

The barque *Woosung*, just arrived from Shanghai, reports having seen a large Japanese warship four days' journey from here going in an eastward direction.

Shanghai, 18th February.

The Russians at Port Arthur have fired on the British steamers *Hoiping* and *Ching-ping* and have seriously damaged the German *Pronto*. They afterwards detained the

Heiping at Dalny for 4 days, not heeding the captain's repeated protests.

LONDON, 18th February.

The Russians are detaining British and American ships at Newchwang.

230 convicts have been enrolled by the Russians in Sakhalin.

SINGAPORE, 19th February, 10.40 a.m.

The Russian threat with reference to Tibet has been treated in India with amused contempt. It has created no sensation among the natives, who recognise the Russian collapse and are in sympathy with Japan.

The Tibet Mission is pressing forward.

A proclamation of neutrality was issued in a *Government Gazette Extraordinary* on the 12th inst.

Mr. Masaichi Noma, Consul for Japan, requests us to publish the following translation of H.I.M. the Emperor's Declaration of War:—

"We all alike, by Grace of Heaven the Emperor of Japan seated on the Throne occupied by the All-saving Dynasty from time immemorial, do hereby make proclamation to all our loyal and brave subjects.

"We hereby declare war against Russia and we command our army and navy to carry on hostilities against that Empire with all their strength, and we also command all our competent authorities to make every effort in pursuance of their duties and in accordance with their powers to attain the national aim with all the means within the limits of the law of nations. We have always deemed it essential to international relations and made it Our constant aim to promote the pacific progress of Our Empire in civilisation, to strengthen Our friendly ties with other states, and to establish a state of things which will maintain enduring peace in the Extreme East and assure the future security of Our Dominion without injury to the rights and items of other powers. Our competent authorities have also performed their duties in obedience to Our will, so that Our relations with the powers have been steadily growing in cordiality.

"It was thus entirely against Our expectation that We have unhappily come to open hostilities against Russia. The integrity of Korea is a matter of constant concern to this Empire; not only because of Our traditional relations with that country, but because the separate existence of Korea is essential to the safety of Our Realm. Nevertheless, Russia, in disregard of her solemn treaty pledges to China, and her repeated assurances to other Powers is still in occupation of Manchuria, and already has consolidated and strengthened her hold upon these provinces, and is bent upon their final annexation. And since absorption of Manchuria by Russia would render it impossible to maintain the integrity of China and would in addition to that compel abandonment of all hope for peace in the Extreme East; We determined in those circumstances to settle the questions by negotiation and to secure thereby permanent peace. With that object in view our competent authorities by Our order made proposals to Russia, and frequent conferences were held during the last six months. Russia, however, never met such proposals in a spirit of conciliation but by her wanton delays put off the settlement of the question and by ostensibly advocating peace on the one hand while she was on the other extending her naval and military preparations sought to accomplish her own selfish designs.

"We can not in the least admit that Russia had from the first any serious or genuine desire for peace. She has rejected the proposals of Our Government, the safety of Korea is in danger, the cherished interests of Our Empire are menaced. The guarantees for the future which we have failed to secure by peaceful negotiations, we can now only seek by a brave appeal to arms. It is our earnest wish that by the loyalty and valour of our faithful subjects peace may soon be permanently restored and the Glory of Our Empire preserved."

The Japanese Consul, Mr. Masaichi Noma, sends us the following official telegram received by him from Japan on the 13th inst.:

"Tokyo, 12th February, 5.30 p.m.—On the 11th inst. two of our merchant vessels, the *Nakonoura Maru* and *Zensho Maru*, when on their way from Sakata to Otaru, were attacked and surrounded by four Russian cruisers near Henashik (Aomori prefecture). The *Nakonoura Maru* was sunk, but the *Zensho Maru* escaped to Fukuyama. These four Russian cruisers are still cruising round the northern coast of Japan."

With reference to these cruisers the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha received on the same day the following telegram:—

"Shanghai, 12th February, 8.30 p.m.—A telegram received from our Head Office at Tokyo communicates that three Russian cruisers have been destroyed by Japanese torpedo boats at Aomori."

The Japanese Consul sent us a copy of the report of Admiral Togo, Commander-in-Chief of the Combined Japanese Squadron, on the 10th inst., which was substantially as follows:—

"At midnight on the 8th inst., our torpedo flotillas attacked with success the Russian Fleet in the outer roads of Port Arthur, and on the following day, the 9th, at 10 a.m. we made an attack for forty minutes, when the Russians fled into the harbour. At 1 p.m. we ceased firing and retired. Our ships were but slightly damaged, none being lost. Our losses were four killed and fifty-four wounded. Imperial Princes are all in safety. Our torpedo flotillas rejoined the main squadron after the battle. Officers and men are in high spirits, and behaved with great calmness during the fight, as if at ordinary manoeuvres."

The Japanese Consul further informed us on the 14th inst. that he had received the following official message:—

"Request made through British Consul to our Consul at Chemulpo for placing 34 of the wounded Russians under the care of some charitable Japanese was willingly acceded to. They will be placed in the Japanese Nursing Hospital at Chemulpo and treated by Japanese doctors."

By kind permission of the Naval Authorities we were enabled to publish the following telegraphic news on the 19th inst.:

"Whereas it was reported by wire that H.M.S. *Talbot* had 150 Russians on board from the Russian warships *Varyag* and *Koreetz*, it is now learnt that the *Talbot* has 295 men from the *Varyag* and *Koreetz* on board. In the encounter between the Russian gunboat *Koreetz* and cruiser *Varyag* and a Japanese escorting squadron 41 Russians were killed and 68 wounded."

With reference to an official message to the Japanese Consul to the effect that request had been made through the British Consul to the Japanese Consul at Chemulpo for placing 34 wounded Russians under the care of some charitable Japanese it is probable that these 34 men are amongst those who took refuge on the *Talbot*. The Japanese Consul at Chemulpo, it will be remembered willingly acceded to the request; the men are to be treated by Japanese doctors at the Japanese Nursing Hospital at Chemulpo.

On the 15th inst. we received the following from the Japanese Consul:—

"Our Consul at Gensan telegraphed on the 14th inst. as follows: According to the captain of the American steamer *Pleiades*, just arrived here from Port Arthur, the Russian cruiser *Askold*, which was damaged by our ships and was lying in the inner harbour, sank on the forenoon of the 12th inst. The Russian casualties so far (in Port Arthur) are reported to be 29 killed and 61 wounded and carried ashore. Two men were killed in the Golden Hill Fortress and several wounded there."

The Golden Hill fortress mentioned is behind Port Arthur.

Just before the outbreak of war news reached Tokyo from Vladivostok that the cruisers *Gromboi*, *Bogatyr*, *Burik*, and *Rossia* and an ice-breaker were fully equipped for action and ready to put out to sea from Vladivostok. It is apparently these cruisers which have been operating off the Northern Japanese coast, and have sunk the *Nakonoura Maru*. The question remains, what has become of them since?

A Chemulpo despatch of the 1st inst. stated that the Russian warships *Varyag* and *Koreetz* took in 1,500 tons of coal from the Russian coal shed in Roza Island on the previous night. They were to take in some more from a coaling ship lying outside the port. The Russian cruiser *Sungari*, from Port Arthur, arrived at Chemulpo on the 1st inst. All three vessels have since been sunk or destroyed.

A Chemulpo telegram of the 4th says that 6,000 Russians who had left Liaoyang for the Yalu were gradually coming to Korean territory across the river. It was believed that the Russian warships would blockade Seoul and Chemulpo immediately war broke out!

It is learnt at Peking on the 9th inst. by telegram from Kinohou that the Russian telegraphic communication between Kaiping and Haicheng, Yinkou and Tashihchiao was totally destroyed on the 5th inst. by mounted bandits.

On the morning of the 9th inst. a Japanese squadron of 16 large warships was sighted 18 miles out from Chefoo, steaming toward Port Arthur. This is according to a telegram from Chefoo, but as is known part of the Japanese fleet reached Port Arthur on the night of the 8th.

The Japanese Consul informed us on the 17th morning that he had received the following official telegram dated Tokyo, 16th February, 8.50 p.m.:

"According to certain foreign officers who were in Port Arthur from the 8th to the 11th instant, the Russian battleship *Retvizan* is aground outside the harbour, the *Tsarevitch* has been taken into the port, and the *Pallada* is lying aground at the entrance. All three are hors de combat by the bombardment of the Japanese fleet. Next morning the *Novik* was damaged seriously, while the *Askold*, *Diana* and *Poltava* were only slightly damaged."

"Next morning" evidently means the morning of the 9th instant, the first attack having been made on the night of the 8th.

The Japanese official account of the Chemulpo action is thus given in the *N. O. Daily News*:—Our squadron escorting transports was entering the port of Chemulpo towards the evening of the 8th, when they met near Hachibi Island the Russian gunboat *Koreetz* coming out of the port. The latter at once assumed an offensive attitude towards the Japanese transports and then fired on the torpedo-boats, which replied thereto with two torpedoes but without effect, whereupon the *Koreetz* returned to her anchorage in the port. Admiral Uriu, commanding the conveying squadron, made a formal demand on the 9th on the senior Russian naval officer (the captain of the *Varyag*) to retire from the port before noon that day, adding that in the event of refusal he would be compelled to attack them in the harbour. The Japanese squadron then left the port, and the two Russian men-of-war also left the harbour a little after 11.30 a.m., whereupon a fight ensued well outside of the Polynesian Islands. After about an hour's engagement, the Russian vessels took refuge in the Polynesian Islands, and at 4 p.m. the *Koreetz* sank, having apparently blown herself up. The *Varyag* was entirely disabled and sank the same evening. The officers and men of the Russian vessels took refuge on board the French cruiser *Pascal*. There was no loss of life and no damage whatever on the Japanese vessels. The Japanese troops landed at Chemulpo on the 8th. Perfect tranquillity reigned at Chemulpo and Seoul.

The following is the latest information regarding the distribution of Russian troops in Manchuria:—

At Port Arthur, 20,350 men, consisting of Infantry, Third Brigade, 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th regiments East Siberian Sharpshooters comprising 2,000 men in each regiment; Seventh Brigade (one half) or 25th and 26th regiments, East Siberian Sharpshooters, 2,000 men each. The other half of the Brigade being the 27th regiment at Haicheng, and the 28th regiment of the same Corps (East Siberian Sharpshooters) at Liaoyang. Note:—All of the third Brigade, except the 11th regiment, have since proceeded to the coast of the Liaotung Peninsula and the Yalu. Cavalry: one company Baikal Cossacks, 150

men.—*Artillery*:—two Companies East Siberian Battalion, 600 men; one regiment Port Arthur garrison artillery, 2,400 men. *Pioneers*:—two battalions East Siberian Pioneer Regiment, 1,000 men. *Torpedo Corps*:—one company Torpedo Corps, 200 men.

At Dalny, 2,000 men, consisting of the 14th Regiment East Siberian Sharpshooters.

At Talienwan, 4,400 men. *Infantry*: 13th Regiment East Siberian Sharpshooters, 2,000 men; four Companies 15th Regiment, ditto, 1,000 men. *Cavalry*: four Companies Baikal Cossacks, 600 men. *Artillery*: one Company, East Siberian Battalion, 30 men, and one Company, Field Artillery Transbaikai regiment, 300 men. *Torpedo Corps*: one Company, Torpedo Corps, 200 men.

At Pitzewo, 400 men, composed of one Company, 12th Regiment East Siberian Sharpshooters, 250 men, and one Company, Baikal Cossacks, 150 men.

At Antang, 550 men, consisting of one Company, 15th Regiment East Siberian Sharpshooters, 250 men; one Company, Baikal Cossacks, 150 men, and half Company, East Siberian Battalion with four guns, 150 men.

At Fenghuangcheng, (Yalu), 750 men—three Companies, Baikal Cossacks, 450 men, and one Company, Transbaikai Field Artillery, with eight guns, 300 men.

At Chinchou, (near Port Arthur) 750 men—three Companies East Siberian Sharpshooters, 750 men.

At Yinkou (Newchwang) 1,200 men—five Cos. E. S. Sharpshooters, 1,050 men, and half Co., East Siberian Battalion, with four guns, 150 men.

At Haicheng, 1,150 men—four Cos. 28th Regiment E. S. Sharpshooters, 1,000 men, and half Co., East Siberian Battalion, with four guns, 150 men.

At Liaoyang, 1,900 men—three Cos. 15th Regiment E. S. Sharpshooters 750 men; four Cos. 28th Regiment, ditto 1,000 men, and half Co. Transbaikai Field Artillery, with four guns, 150 men.

At Moukden, 550 men—One Co. 15th Regiment E. S. Sharpshooters, 250 men; half Co., Transbaikai Field Artillery, 150 men, and one Co. Transbaikai Cossacks, 150 men.

At Tielin, 2,750 men—16th Regiment E. S. Sharpshooters 2,000 men; 7th Co., First Brigade East Siberian Artillery, with eight guns, 300 men, two Cos. Transbaikai Field Artillery, with twelve guns, 300 men, and one Co. Amur Cossacks, 150 men.

At Ninguta, 1,250 men—two Cos. 18th Regiment E. S. Sharpshooters, 500 men; three Cos. Amur Cossacks 450 men, and one Co., east Siberian Artillery Battalion, 300 men.

At Harbin, 4,550 men—17th Regiment E. S. Sharpshooters, 2,000 men; six Cos. 18th Regiment ditto, 1,500 men; one Amur Cossacks, 150 men, and one battalion east Siberian Artillery, with twenty-four guns, 900 men.

At Tsitsihar, 1,950 men—Six Cos. 20th Regiment E. S. Sharpshooters 1,500 men, second Co., of the Second Brigade of the East Siberian Artillery, with eight guns, 300 men, and one Co. Amur Cossacks, 150 men.

At Hailar, 1,000 men, belonging to the Third Battalion Nelchinsk Reserves.

In addition to the above there are fifty-five Companies Railway Guards consisting of 24,000 men, mostly quartered at Harbin, Liaoyang, Kungchulin, Hengtaohotze and Taibihoiao. There is also another Railway Corps consisting of some four battalions stationed at Harbin, Hengtaohotze, Kungchulin, and Liaoyang.

The Manager of the Hongkong branch of the Yokohama Specie Bank informed us on the 18th inst. that he had received a telegram from the Bank's head office at Yokohama, dated 17th February, 2 p.m., to the following effect:—
"On the 14th inst., at dawn, our torpedo flotilla badly damaged the Russian fleet in the outer roads of Port Arthur."

Later in the day we received from the Japanese Consul the two following telegrams:—

"Tokyo, 17th February, 4.50 p.m.—On the 13th inst., during a heavy gale and driving snow our destroyer flotilla was despatched against Port Arthur. On the 14th at 3 a.m. the destroyer *Asagiri*, notwithstanding a violent fire from the Russian ships, succeeded in approaching one of their men-of-war and torpedoed her. With the aid of her own guns she drove

back the Russian torpedo boats sent to attack her and got away in safety. At 5 a.m. on the same day, the destroyer *Hayatori* crept up to the entrance of the port, was met by a violent fire from two Russian vessels, one of which she torpedoed, and after seeing the explosion take place under that ship, she withdrew in safety."

[The *Asagiri* and *Hayatori* mentioned above are both 31-knot boats only just turned out by the Japanese themselves at Yokosuka. They have two torpedo-tubes each and carry one 12-pr. and five 6-pr. guns. Their displacement is 320 tons and their i.h.p. 6,000.—Ed D.P.]

"Tokyo, 17th February, 9.25 p.m.—Japanese refugees coming to Chefoo from Port Arthur by the British steamer *Wenchow* give the following information:—On the night of the 17th inst. the Russian authorities in Port Arthur informed the Japanese residents who were preparing to leave that they would not be allowed to embark on the British steamer *Rasber*, and at midnight they were served with notices forbidding them to leave the port, this by order of Admiral Alexieff. Numerous others who were already on board the s.s. *Wenchow*, ready to leave for Chefoo, were placed under the guard of 8 Russian soldiers. They were not allowed to land, and the steamer was forbidden to leave by the Russian authorities. More than two hundred Japanese had taken refuge on board this boat, and they were practically starving. Application was made, on several occasions, to Admiral Alexieff to allow these unfortunates to procure food. At last, on the night of the 10th inst., 10 bags of rice and half a dozen biscuits (P each) were allowed to be taken on board. On the 11th, as there was no more drinking water on board, a signal was hoisted asking for some to be sent, but no answer was received to this request. On the 13th, the suffering passengers, having been nearly 48 hours without water, sent an appeal to the authorities, requesting that food and water should at least be sent out for the children and pregnant woman who were on board. On the same day 103 Japanese arrived from Harbin, having been robbed of all their money and baggage on their way down. More than 300 refugees were now on board the *Wenchow*, all in the most pitiable condition, starving and without water. On the 14th at 4 p.m. the ship was allowed to proceed, and she arrived in Chefoo on the morning of the 15th. The passengers state that a complete state of confusion and anarchy exists at Port Arthur. The city is overrun by thieves and the Russian soldiers are themselves plundering the houses and shops; their own countrymen being among the victims. The Russian civilians are arming themselves to protect their property against the soldiery."

The Russian cruiser *Mandjour* was still lying under steam at the Chinese Eastern Railway Co.'s Wharf, Shanghai, on the 13th inst. We learn from enquiry on board the *Empress of Japan* that her guns were being landed when the C.P.R. boat left, and that she was rapidly being reduced to the guise of a merchant vessel. There was a Japanese cruiser (the *Akitsuushima*) on the lookout for her, however, not far from Shanghai.

Particulars of the capture of the Chinese Eastern Railway Co.'s vessels *Mukden* and *Nonni* are published in the *Kobe Chronicle*. According to a letter from the special correspondent at Sasebo of the *Asahi*, the two steamers were convoyed to Sasebo at 11 a.m. on Sunday by four torpedo-boats, and there detained.

The O.S.K. steamer *Shinanogawa-maru*, which arrived at Kobe on Monday night, reports that she left Itoyama, Tsushima, at 4 a.m. on Saturday for Fusan. About 10.30 a.m. on the same day a large steamer was sighted proceeding at full speed from the direction of Gensan. She was flying a Japanese naval flag. In about half-an-hour she was seen to be followed by a Japanese war-ship, and at the entrance to the port of Fusan two Japanese torpedo-boats came out and intercepted her. The cruiser *Saiyen* ordered the steamer to stop, which order was immediately obeyed. The vessel was soon boarded by the officers and men from the *Saiyen* and torpedo-boats, when it was found that she had on board

a large quantity of arms and about 2,000 Russian officers and men. The vessel proved to be the Chinese Eastern Railway Co.'s steamer *Nonni*, which was en route from Vladivostok to Port Arthur.

The *Mukden* arrived at Fusan on Friday from Vladivostok, and was to leave at 5 p.m. on Saturday for Port Arthur. She was prevented from leaving by the cruiser *Fuso* and the gunboat *Chikushi* and other Japanese warships. The Japanese officers immediately boarded the vessel, and upon a search being made it was found she was fully loaded with munitions of war. She was also captured, and the two steamers left for Sasebo at 7 p.m. under the escort of two Japanese warships and several torpedo-boats. The inhabitants of Fusan, who witnessed from the shore the capture of the Russian steamers, signified their approval by cheering vociferously.

When Baron Komura presented the Note to Baron Rosen at the brief meeting held on the 6th inst., in which the Russian Minister was informed of the decision to break off diplomatic relations with Russia, the Japanese Minister for Foreign Affairs expressed his deep regret that the Government found itself compelled to take this course, and went on to say:—"The proposals, which the Imperial Japanese Government deemed decidedly moderate and impartial, failed to obtain that reply from the Government of your country which the Imperial Japanese Government is properly entitled to receive; and the Japanese Government cannot but regret the double-dealing that has been shown by the Russian Government in this matter. I therefore hereby declare that relations between the two countries are now broken off, and I have issued instructions to Mr. Kurino, our Minister at St. Petersburg, to withdraw. I have the honour to make this statement to your Excellency in order to facilitate your future movements, and I do so with renewed assurances of respect and personal consideration for your Excellency."

Mr. Masaichi Noma, Japanese Consul, on Friday morning informed us that he had received the following official telegram early:—

"Tokyo, 18th February, 3.50 p.m.—The *Times* correspondent in Peking reports that Admiral Alexieff telegraphed on the 14th inst. that the battleships *Tsarevitch*, *Retvizan*, *Petropanlovsk*, and *Sevastopol*, the cruisers *Novik*, *Pallada*, and *Askold* have been disabled. A party of Japanese was driven from the railway near Chinchow. The Russians admit of 70 killed on land, and state that 150 Japanese were taken prisoners. The Russians have in all eleven ships out of action and declare that fifteen Japanese men-of-war have been disabled. They acknowledge that the protected cruiser *Boyarin* has been slightly damaged, and state that a Japanese surveying party that landed in Pigeon Bay has been destroyed. The Japanese Government states that the above information is untrue, since no attempt has been made to land troops near the railway, hence it is impossible that prisoners have been taken. The statement to the effect that some of the Japanese ships have been disabled is also false, as none of them have suffered."

Regarding the special *Daily Press* telegram from Shanghai stating that the Russians at Port Arthur had fired on the British steamers *Hsiping* and *Chingping*, and had seriously damaged the German s.s. *Pronto*, we note that the *Pronto* is under time charter with the Hamburg-Amerika Linie. She is a vessel of 719 net tons, having been built at Flensburg in 1891. Mr. H. M. Struve is the owner. The *Chingping* is a vessel of 1,062 tons net, built in 1901 at Blyth. She is running for her owners, the Chinese Engineering & Mining Co. Ltd. The *Hsiping*, which after being fired on was detained at Dalny for four days, in spite of the captain's repeated protests, is also owned by and running for the Chinese Engineering & Mining Co., Ltd. She is a vessel of 1,267 tons net, built at Kiel.

The Indo-China s.s. *Nam Sang* has been specially chartered to take to Colombo the Russian refugees picked up by H.M.S. *Talbot* off Chemulpo after they had blown up their ships rather than let them fall into the hands of

Japanese escorting squadron. Six officers, two colour-sergeants, and 50 marines from H.M.S. *Glory* are going down in the *Nam Sang* to look after the refugees. The *Nam Sang* probably leaves Hongkong for Mirs Bay on the 24th inst. At Mirs Bay H.M.S. *Amphitrite*, which is bringing the refugees down from the north, will meet her, and the men will be transferred for passage west. The Marines from the *Glory*, after the refugees have been landed, will be sent home from Colombo. H.M.S. *King Alfred* left for home on the 31st with the *Glory's* relieved crew. The men are in the highest spirits with the prospects of getting home after their long commission.

HONGKONG LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

A meeting of the Legislative Council was held on the 19th inst. in the Council Chamber. Present:—

HIS EXCELLENCY THE OFFICER ADMINISTERING THE GOVERNMENT, F. H. MAY, C.M.G.

Hon. A. M. THOMSON (Acting Colonial Secretary).

Hon. Sir HENRY S. BERKELEY, Kt. (Attorney-General).

Hon. L. A. M. JOHNSTON (Acting Colonial Treasurer).

Hon. A. W. BREWIN (Registrar-General).

Hon. BASIL R. H. TAYLOR (Acting Harbour Master).

Hon. W. CHATHAM (Director of Public Works).

Hon. Sir C. P. CHATER, C.M.G.

Hon. Dr. HO KAI, C.M.G.

Hon. WEI A YUK.

Hon. C. W. DICKSON.

Hon. H. E. POLLOCK, K.C.

Mr. R. F. JOHNSTON (Acting Clerk of Councils).

FINANCIAL.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER laid on the table Financial Minutes (Nos. 8 to 12) and moved that they be referred to the Finance Committee.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the Report of the Finance Committee (No. 1) and moved its adoption.

The ACTING COLONIAL TREASURER seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

GOVERNOR'S SALARY: INCREASE.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY laid on the table the following communication:—

Downing Street, 8th December, 1903.

Sir,—I have recently had under my consideration the question of the amount of salary paid to the Governors of first class Crown Colonies, and I have come to the conclusion that the emoluments received by the Governors of Ceylon, the Straits Settlements and Hongkong are not sufficient to allow of their supporting the dignity of their position, as it should be supported, without supplementing their official salary from private income.

2. I am sure that your Legislative Council will see the matter in the same light, and I have therefore to request that you will invite the Council to vote an increase to the Governor's salary, from the 1st of January, 1904, from five thousand pounds to six thousand pounds a year of which sum one thousand two hundred pounds should be regarded as an entertainment allowance to be drawn in full by the Officer Administering the Government in the Governor's absence on full or half pay leave.—I have, &c.,

ALFRED LYTTELTON.

The Officer Administering the Government of Hongkong.

MESSRS. STEPHENS AND HOWARD'S PETITION.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY also laid the following paper on the table:—

Downing Street, 21st October, 1903.

Sir,—With reference to my despatch No. 262 of the 16th of July last, relative to a petition presented to His Majesty the King by Messrs. Stephens and Howard, I have the honour to forward copy of a letter dated 5th September addressed by them to the Secretary of State for the Home Department.

2. As you have already been informed, His Majesty was not pleased to give any directions

with regard to the petition, and Messrs. Stephens and Howard were so informed.

3. Mr. Howard has, however, since on two occasions in a personal interview with the Legal Assistant Under Secretary to this Department represented that great injustice has been done to him by the entire inadequacy of the sum awarded to his firm and has contended that they were entitled to rely on the promise of Sir G. Des Vœux in his message to the Legislative Council of the 22nd of March, 1839, that the fullest justice would be done in respect of private rights, a promise which Mr. Howard alleges has not in this case been fulfilled.

4. On consideration of the petition and of your despatch No. 59 of the 15th of March, 1899, I am not entirely satisfied that the compensation awarded to Messrs. Stephens and Howard may not have been inadequate, but it is obvious that such a question can only be decided in the light of local knowledge and experience.

5. I therefore request that you will be good enough to investigate the whole matter afresh, and, if you are of opinion that substantial justice demands it, to ask the Legislative Council to vote an additional sum to the Petitioners, to be paid to them merely as a matter of grace but not of right.—I have, &c.,

ALFRED LYTTELTON.

Governor Sir H. A. Blake, G.C.M.G., &c.

PREPARED OPIUM.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved the first reading of a Bill entitled an Ordinance to amend the Prepared Opium Ordinance, 1891.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

There were attached to the Bill the following objects and reasons:—

The object of this Ordinance is to check and ultimately prevent the sale of opium in the Colony by unauthorised persons.

The expressions "Prepared Opium" and "Preparation" as at present defined in the Prepared Opium Ordinance, 1891, have been found insufficient to prevent the sale of opium in the shape of "pills" and "wines" by unauthorised persons. The result has been that while the Opium Farmer has sustained considerable loss from illicit sales of opium in the above mentioned shape the illicit sellers have been acquitted when prosecuted owing to the difficulty of proving that opium pills and wine come within the definition necessary to secure a conviction under the Prepared Opium Ordinance as it stands.

While affording the Opium Farmer legitimate protection, provision is made to exempt from the operation of the Amending Ordinance opium when prescribed or sold in recognised medicinal forms or in European or American patent medicines.

CHARGES FOR IMBECILE PERSONS.

The Council went into Committee on the Bill entitled an Ordinance to provide for the Recovery of charges incurred on account of imbecile persons introduced into the Colony.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL—Since the Council rose, sir, I have re-cast the second clause as it stood when the Council rose—re-cast it in language only. The section is not altered in substance or effect, but the phraseology has been changed and the changes appear in italics in the shape of two new clauses, Nos. 2 and 4. The old clause as it stood approved by the Council combined in one section what now forms two sections, 2 and 4. As hon. members will see, they are separate matters, and it is better they should be placed in two separate sections. I move that Clauses 2 and 4 as now printed stand part of the Bill in place of the re-arranged clause. In Sub-section 3 there has been a slight amendment made also so as to make it quite clear what certificate it is that is required to be given. I propose to add the words "of refusal of permission to land." I move that this clause as it is now printed stand part of the Bill.

The ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded, and the motion was agreed to.

The sections as amended are as follows:—

(2.) In every case where permission to land any person from any vessel is refused every such person shall be detained by the master on board such vessel and be prevented, by force if need be, from landing.

(3.) In every case in which permission to land from any vessel is refused under the authority

of this Ordinance, the officer refusing such permission shall give a certificate of refusal of permission to land to the master of such vessel if so required by him.

(4.) No action shall lie against the master of any vessel or any person whomsoever for anything done in execution of the provisions of this Ordinance.

The Bill having passed through Committee stage, the Council resumed.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL moved that the Bill be read a third time and passed.

THE ACTING COLONIAL SECRETARY seconded.

Hon. Mr. POLLOCK—Your Excellency, I regret to say I must vote against the third reading of this Bill for the reasons which I gave at the last meeting of Council, namely, that I do not think it fair or just to shipowners that if a person has been put or has embarked on board a ship as a passenger who is to all outward appearance sane, the charterer or the agent should be subjected to any charge for the expenses of keeping in this Colony or the repatriation of such person. For these reasons, sir, I feel bound to vote against the third reading of this bill.

On the motion being put to the vote, His EXCELLENCY declared that the "Ayes" had it. In reply to His Excellency, Hon. Mr. POLLOCK said he did not desire the house to divide.

JURY LIST.

The Council afterwards sat in private for revision of the Jury List.

FINANCE COMMITTEE.

A meeting of the Finance Committee was held immediately after the Council, Hon. A. M. Thomson, Acting Colonial Secretary, presiding.

The following votes were passed:—

INCREASE OF GOVERNOR'S SALARY.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$12,000 in aid of the vote "Governor" under Personal Emoluments for an increase to the Governor's salary, from the 1st January, 1904.

GRANT TO AN INVALIDED NURSE.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$350 as a gratuity to Miss Clara Watson, lately Nursing Sister at the Government Civil Hospital, invalided from the Service.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$1,360 in aid of the vote Public Works Department under Personal Emoluments:—

1 Foreman (from January to December at \$3) per month	\$ 360
1 Foreman (from January to June at \$35 per month and from July to December at \$40 per month)	\$ 450
1 Foreman (from February to December at \$50 per month)	550

Total\$1,360

MESSRS. STEPHENS AND HOWARD'S CLAIM.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of \$18,223.21 for additional compensation to Messrs. Stephens and Howard in respect of damage sustained owing to the Reclamation in front of Marine Lot No. 184.

This amount has been calculated as follows:—
Depreciation (as in Musso's case) 75 cents per square foot for Area (M.L. 184) 32,481 square feet.

Damage on 1st September, 1898...	\$24,367.50
Interest thereon from 1st September, 1898, to 28th February, 1904 ...	9,381.46

Total ... \$33,748.96

Deduct amount paid on 29th August, 1903	\$15,000.00
Interest thereon up to 28th February, 1904	525.75
Total now payable ...	\$18,223.21

NEW ROOFS FOR CIVIL HOSPITAL.

The Officer Administering the Government recommended the Council to vote a sum of

\$9,000 in aid of the vote Public Works, Annually Recurrent, to meet the balance of the cost of the work of constructing new roofs for the Government Civil Hospital.
This was all the business.

CHINATOWN FAIR.

AN IMPRESSION.

In the broad glare of daylight there is something of the sordid and drab, and the garish also, about Chinatown Fair. It is only when the Fair is seen under the glare of artificial lights, that one becomes enamoured of its picturesque quaintness and vitality. There is an unkindliness about the sun, for it brings out the blemishes of such a scene as this. To take the noonday aspect of a theatrical stage, for an instance, what could be more hideous to the visual sense? Or a gambling-hell when the first streaks of morning pierce through the chinks of the closed shutters and shine upon empty bottles, and clouds of stale tobacco smoke, and dishevelled gamblers? A saunter through the Fair in the morning hours suggests such comparisons. But return at night-time, and what a chance is seen! No longer drab or shoddy, the Fair is a brilliant medley of moving, laughing life, rich in colour, heterogeneous, full of sights to feast the eye upon and ponder afterwards. The fancy articles that stock the wayside stalls and bear upon their faces as plain as any print could make it "Made in Germany" forget their tinsel look and take on burnishings of silver and gold; the Chinese paper masks and "joss" paraphernalia shine out with additional lustre borrowed from the lamps; while the contents of the old curio-stalls become more curious and grotesque than ever, and the sweetmeats appear to be more toothsome to the passing crowd.

From the top of Jervois Street one gets a capital idea of the dimensions of the multitude. On each side of the street are placed the stalls, leaving in the middle of the thoroughfare an avenue through which flows a stream of people coming and going, so dense that from your vantage ground at the top of the incline one can easily conceive it a possible feat to walk on the heads of the pedestrians. And it is a strangely conglomerate scene. The Chinese element naturally predominates. Barefooted coolies rub shoulders with fellow-countrymen resplendent in silk and glowing cigars. Here a lone Korean stalks along with bovine disinterestedness stamped upon his features. There a crowd of Macanese boys and girls, vivacious and voluble, barter with a stall-holder over some coveted "bargain." The lordly Sikh views the moving throng with Oriental indifference, and only unbends so far as to take without murmuring the buffets which one and all have to endure who brave the stress of the Fair. The Fair is the "great leveller." It reminds one of some of the Continental festivals. Everyone is liable to get a buffet, and the only reparation one has is to give one back to somebody else. There is no bad temper shown. Good feeling is abroad.

Nor is the European element wanting. Britishers, Germans, French in groups traverse the Fair, bearing the proceeds of their purchases and looking out for fresh "bargains." It is after dinner-time that the Europeans begin to put in an appearance mostly. Here comes a party now. They are young fellows; they visit every stall and laugh and joke with the salesmen with a post-prandial jollity that communicates itself to the standers-by. They make more bids than they conclude bargains, nor do their bids commend themselves much to the vendors as being made in the spirit of sweet reasonableness. But the latter never miss a chance of barter, even with a roystering blade who has put most of his available dollars into the Derby sweeps. And so the game goes on. It is well on past midnight before the lights begin to disappear and the crowds to thin and the wearied stallholder to count his takings and get ready for departure. If one should stroll down Jervois Street this morning he will find nothing remaining of the animation and light and colour of last night, but an unsightly litter, like the shell which the butterfly leaves hind when it flutters from grub-state into the sunshine.

THE A.D.C. IN "HIS EXCELLENCY"

On the 13th inst. at the Theatre Royal the Hongkong Amateur Dramatic Club gave the first of four performances of *His Excellency*, the comic opera by Messrs. W. S. Gilbert and Osmond Carr. This is the piece which, it will be remembered, was to have been played three years ago, but, owing to the death of the late Queen Victoria was never played in Hongkong. The A. D. C. suffered a heavy pecuniary loss then, owing to the fact that all the costumes had been purchased and the other necessary arrangements made. It is to be hoped, therefore, that the present short run will be more than usually remunerative, so as to make up to the A. D. C. for the previous disappointment. A most favourable impression was made by the first performance. The Hongkong A. D. C. is noted for its conscientious renderings of the plays which it attempts, and it is no mere flattery to say in the present case that all the actors and actresses worked loyally and well, and that the performance compared favourably with any comic opera which has been seen here of late years. *His Excellency* is not the best of Mr. Gilbert's librettos, but it is distinctly amusing, and Dr. Osmond Carr's music is tuneful throughout. The play demands a large cast, and it is more than creditable to the Colony to be able to find so many capable exponents, both of acting and of singing. A great misfortune befell the A. D. C. just before the opening night. Mrs. E. W. Mitchell, a lady who was to have filled the most responsible female part, being compelled by illness in her family to abandon it. No suitable substitute could be found, until a naval gentleman was prevailed upon to undertake the character at the shortest notice. At the dress rehearsal Mr. Phillips read from the book; on Saturday night he played the rôle admirably. Certainly the name of "handy man" is well deserved by him.

On Saturday it may be said that three members of the cast stood out amid the general excellence. They were Surgeon H. L. Norris, Lient. Davidson, and Mrs. Hall Wright. Mr. Norris was delightfully humorous and, singing well into the bargain, made a great feature of the part of the Syndic, Mats Munck. Lient. Davidson added appreciably to the favour which he has gained with Hongkong audiences. He is a clever young actor and has decidedly shown his versatility in the different parts he has played on the local stage. Mrs. Hall-Wright is a new actress to Hongkong. She is indeed a welcome addition to local amateur dramatic talent. As Nanna she was quite the life of the scenes in which she appeared, and had recalls been permitted she would have been obliged to come back time after time. But the A. D. C. wisely decided not to permit recalls, owing to the length of the opera. The audience, however, fully showed its appreciation of Mrs. Hall-Wright's charming impersonation of the Governor's daughter. Capt. Bushe, who has made two or three previous appearances in the Theatre Royal, made a handsome and effective Prince Regent, and his duets with Lient. Davidson were warmly applauded. Mr. George Lammert sang well in the part of Erling Syke. Perhaps he might have been a trifle more dramatic in action, but his presence was good. Dr. Hall-Wright gave an excellent interpretation of the rôle of the "pitiful pill-roller," Dr. Tortensen. Surgeon Horley was a splendid and resplendent representative of the corporal of the King's Hussars, who were a fine body of men. The Hussars' chorus was one of the successes of the play. Of Mr. Phillips we have already spoken. He undoubtedly extricated the A. D. C. from a difficult position and deserves their best thanks. Mrs. Craddock had the leading vocal part among the ladies, and filled it very gracefully. Her songs would certainly have obtained encores. Mrs. Hagen played Thora, one of the Governor's daughters, and both in acting and singing made a hit. Mrs. Maitland, in the dashing costume of a *vivandière*, was a very effective foil to the strapping Hussars. Smaller parts were creditably undertaken and the chorus was both capable and powerful. We cannot of course single out any among so many. The costumes were for the most part all that could be desired—we say for the most part, for there were one or two rather harsh contrasts in colours. This remark does

not apply to the principals' dresses, which were one and all very pleasing. The scenery, executed from the designs of Mr. H. W. Bird, would not have disgraced a home theatre. Messrs. Bird's statue was a notable feature; it must have been exported from Florence unknown to the Italian Government, which does not allow art treasures to be lost to the country any longer. The orchestra, under the able conductorship of Mr. A. G. Ward, played in capital style; its reinforcement by some of the Sherrwood Foresters' bandmen was by kind permission of the Colonel and officers.

We must not omit to mention that the efforts of Messrs. Caldwell and Chapman, the Stage and Acting Managers, were most successful and Mr. E. W. Mitchell's experienced training was visible throughout, though he was unhappily obliged to be absent on the opening night.

The following was the full cast:—

The Prince Regent (disguised as Nills Egilson, a strolling Player) Capt. Bushe, R.A.
George Griffenfeld (Governor of Elsinore)...
Lient. Davidson, R.A.
Erling Syke (a young sculptor) Mr. Geo. Lammert
Dr. Tortensen (a young physician) Dr. Hall-Wright
Mats Munck (syndic of Elsinore) Surg. H. Leigh Norris, R.N.
Corporal Harold (of the King's Hussars) ... Surg. R. B. Horley, R.N.
A Sentry..... Lt. A. C. Butt, R.N.
First Officer..... Mr. H. A. Seth
Second Officer..... Mr. R. Henderson
Christiana (a ballad singer)..... Mrs. Craddock
Nanna (Griffenfeld's daughter)..... Mrs. Hall-Wright
Thora (Griffenfeld's daughter)..... Mrs. Hagen
Dame Hecla Cortlandt (a lady of property) ... Mr. W. J. L. Phillips
Blanca (a Vivandiere)..... Mrs. F. Maitland
Elsa (a peasant girl)..... Miss Hazeland

CHORUS.

Mesdames Armstrong, M. d'Almada e Castro, Bateman, Drayson, Henderson, Holmes, Mowbray-Jones, Kew, Kirkwood, Lumley, Mancell, Miller, Moore, Murray, Plummer, Quinn, Seth, Shaw and Tarrant.

Messrs. Auld, Armstrong, Butt, Bain, Brent, Campbell, Drayson, Goldring, Goetz, Hance, Hollingsworth, Henderson, Holt, Judah, H. A. Lammert, L. E. Lammert, Meyer, Parker, W. J. Phillips, Philpott, Rubie, Rutherford, S. Seth, Vaughan, Webster and Whitmore.

The final performance of *His Excellency* by the Amateur Dramatic Club at the Theatre on the 20th inst. was witnessed by a full house so demonstrative in its appreciation that recalls were frequent, and the performance in consequence considerably prolonged. This, however, can hardly have displeased anybody, for from start to finish the performance was an unqualified success, and would have been no discredit to a London stage. All concerned in the production of the piece deserve the heartiest congratulations upon their success, and we are certain we shall be expressing the sentiments of the community in publicly thanking the members of the A. D. C., and in particular Mr. E. W. Mitchell, its leading spirit, for adding so agreeably to the gaiety of our Colonial life.

THE NEW H.K.C.C. PAVILION.

An Extraordinary Meeting of Members was held in the Pavilion on the 12th inst. to discuss the recommendations of the sub-committee appointed for considering the question of a new Pavilion. There was considerable difficulty in forming a quorum, but eventually the required 30 were collected:—Messrs F. Maitland (chairman), J. T. Dixon, T. Sercombe Smith, A. Mackenzie, R. A. B. Ponsonby, H. Hancock, Hon. A. M. Thomson, A. Denison, J. R. Michael, A. J. Raymond, O. J. Ellis, P. W. Goldring, A. O. Brown, E. Humphreys, C. R. S. Cooper, W. B. Dixon, G. Blood, Dr. F. H. Kew, C. Kew, T. C. Gray, Rev. C. H. Hickling, T. E. Pearce, H. Pinckney, A. Humphreys, H. Humphreys, C. Radmacher, H. Arthur, E. C. Emmett, J. E. Lee, C. H. Grace, A. G. Ward, W. J. Saunders.

THE CHAIRMAN said he regretted that Mr. Mitchell, owing to sickness in his family, was unable to preside at the meeting. They all knew that they must have a new pavilion.

The committee had appointed a sub-committee and the sub-committee's report had been in their hands for some time. Special thanks were due to Messrs. Ram, Leigh, and Dixon, who had taken such trouble with the plans. If the sub-committee's recommendations be passed the club would easily be able both to get debentures and pay them back. \$14,400 have been promised by certain gentlemen in the colony. Before putting the resolutions to the meeting he would hear anything anyone had to say. He thought, however that the sub-committee had gone very fully into the matter and the best thing would be to do as they suggested.

Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH asked if the consent of the Government had been received. He also understood that Government objected to the coolies, entrance near the new Law Courts.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. P. W. GOLDBRING seconded, that a new pavilion be erected in the north-west corner of the cricket ground at a total cost not exceeding \$20,000.

Mr. WARD said that he had been to see the Hon. Mr. Chatham regarding the pavilion, and asked if he saw any objection to the pavilion being erected in the S. W. corner, near the City Hall, instead of at the N. W. corner. The Hon. Mr. Chatham rather approved of such alteration in the plans; he did not desire that the coolie-quarters, urinals, etc. be near the Law Courts; if placed on this new site he did not think that the government would have any objection. Mr. Ward thought that if the site were changed people would subscribe more liberally. The foundations, too, in this new site might be less costly.

Mr. C. W. DIXON proposed an amendment so that the resolution would read:—That a new pavilion be erected on the cricket ground at a total cost not exceeding \$20,000 (the words "north-west corner" being expunged)

Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH seconded.

The resolution was carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. C. W. DIXON seconded, that the plans of Messrs. Denison, Ram and Gibbs be accepted.

Mr. P. W. GOLDBRING proposed an amendment so that the resolution should read:—The plans of Messrs. Denison, Ram & Gibbs, subject to all necessary modifications, be accepted.

Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH seconded, and it was carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. HENRY HUMPHREYS seconded, that the tender of King Tak Cheong be accepted.

Mr. MACKENZIE proposed that this matter be left to the discretion of the committee.

Mr. P. W. GOLDBRING seconded Mr. Mackenzie's amendment, and it was carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. H. HANCOCK seconded, that the sum required be raised by the issue of six per cent. debentures of the face value of \$50 each, repayable at 10 yearly drawings commencing on 31st October, 1905.

Mr. P. W. GOLDBRING proposed an amendment so that the resolutions should read;—"The committee be authorised to raise the sum required by the issue of . . . etc."

Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH seconded and the amendment was carried.

The CHAIRMAN proposed, and Mr. Cooper seconded, that rule 16 be amended by substituting \$15 for \$10. This would mean that the annual subscription for civilians would be raised from \$10 to \$15, and for Naval men from \$5 to \$7.50.

This was carried.

Mr. SERCOMBE SMITH proposed a vote of thanks to Mr. Maitland (applause).

Mr. MAITLAND thanked the members for their attendance.

Mr. M. G. Kisseleff writes a long letter to the *Nagasaki Press* complaining of insulting articles which have appeared in certain Japanese papers about him; the correspondents regarding him as a spy, posing as a tea-merchant. Mr. Kisseleff says in his letter that he is a citizen of Kiachta, in Siberia, and that he was for twenty years in the tea business in China—Tientsin, Hankow, Kiukiang, and Foochow—at first as a clerk and afterwards as a partner and manager of the tea-factories of the well-known firm in China, Messrs. Tomakoff, Molotkoff & Co., with full power of attorney. He has lived in Nagasaki about four years for the benefit of his health.

NOTES FROM THE BOTANIC GARDENS.

A very sweet-scented shrub, known as *Buddleia asiatica*, is just beginning to open its flowers. There are many specimens of this plant growing in the gardens planted in shrubberies and in pots at the fountain. It is a very free-blooming species, and the spikes of white are several inches long. The leaves are long and narrow, and on the under side covered with a white tomentum. It is a most desirable plant for this time of the year. The species was first described by Loureiro in 1790 and introduced into England from Nepal in 1824, under the name of *Buddleia Neemda*. It has been found in Hongkong, on the opposite mainland, and in various parts of the East Indies, and belongs to the same family—*Loganiaceae*—as the plant from which strychnine is obtained.

The rhododendrons are favourites of most people, and the first to open its flowers is *Rhododendron ledifolium*. This species, which is a native of China, is represented by many specimens in both the old and new gardens. The flowers are white, fully two inches across, and abundantly produced. The leaves are small, something like those of the common azalea—*Rhododendron indicum*.

A successful beginning has been made this year with planting bulbs in the grass, and the narcissus bulbs that were planted on one of the banks on the lower terrace are now in full flower.

The flowers of *Olea fragrans*, now open on several bushes in the gardens (for instance by the path leading down from the deer-house in the new gardens), are among the most fragrant for their size in the vegetable kingdom. Their value is well known to the Chinese, who have had the shrub under cultivation for many centuries in all parts of the Empire. It was known in Europe as early as the beginning of the eighteenth century through James Cunningham, the pioneer of English collectors in China, who sent specimens from Chusan to his friend Plukenet, the distinguished keeper of the Royal Garden at Hampton Court.

The *Erythrina* now in flower at the end of the Grevillea walk, exhibits in a striking manner the economy of flowering in the absence of leaves. Its scarlet flowers form a conspicuous object on the leafless branches and must attract a sufficiency of insects for fertilising purposes besides having the whole resources of the tree at their disposal until the young leaves appear.

The fruit of *Spathodea Caudafelina*, a tree of which stands near the aviary, bears such a striking resemblance, as the name implies, to a cat's tail that it must immediately occur to the observer whether the similarity is not of some use to the species. The seeds are adapted to be disseminated by the wind and would therefore gain nothing by being enclosed in a fruit made attractive for birds and animals to eat, as is the case in more fleshy and brightly coloured fruits. It is probable on the contrary that the imitation of the tail of a cat or some other small carnivorous native of South China (the natural home of the tree) may have the effect of scaring birds away which might otherwise injure the seeds. The tree seems to be avoided by birds.

MR. GERSHOM STEWART'S WEDDING.

A very pretty wedding took place at Holy Trinity Cathedral yesterday, says the *N.-C. Daily News* of the 10th inst., when Mr. Gershom Stewart, exchange broker, of Hongkong, espoused the charming Miss Gresson, sister of Mr. W. Gresson, managing partner at Shanghai for the firm of Jardine, Matheson & Co. The Company's hulk *Yuen Fah* was gaily decorated with flags all day, and many of the employees attended the service at the Cathedral. This was decorated with unusual care and taste. The altar-rails were backed with red stuff, and covered with marguerites, jonquils, and greenery. Plants in pots were arranged in verdurous terraces on either hand. In the background, the panels of the reredos carried trails of ivy. Up the central aisle, the customary avenue of bamboos was erected, the obtrusive branchlets inconveniencing the millinery-wearers. In one corner was the Town Band, whose services were requisitioned in place of the organ now

under repair, and who were conducted by Mr. Valenza. The full choir was also in attendance. Miss Hawksley was the senior bridesmaid, and two small maids also attending were Miss Betty Addis and Miss Theo Boisragon. The duties of "best man" were efficiently discharged by Mr. E. S. Sanders.

Following the ceremony there was a fully attended reception at the Ewo hong premises, where the very numerous and handsome presents were displayed and greatly admired, and where Mr. Addis in fitting terms proposed the health of the bride and bridegroom, mentioning that Mr. Stewart had been present at his (Mr. Addis's) wedding. The bridegroom replied and gave the toast of the bridesmaids, for whom Mr. Sanders made an excellent spokesman. Mr. and Mrs. Gershom Stewart left shortly afterward for "Unkaza," kindly lent by Mr. and Mrs. Jenner Hogg, now in Europe.

FOOCHOW.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Foochow, 10th February.

THE A.D.C. IN "OUR BOYS."

The A.D.C. gave a very enjoyable performance of the popular if somewhat out-of-date play *Our Boys* on Tuesday evening, the 9th inst., before an almost record house. Perkyn Middlewick kept the prompter perhaps rather too hard at work, but the audience were very patient and appreciative. Our acting manager, Mr. G. Balloch, was loudly called for at the end of the performance after the usual file of characters had passed in front of the curtain, and certainly thoroughly deserved the acknowledgment of his hard work and good services. If one might select a star from a really excellent cast it should be Miss Pratt, a *débutante* who proved in a long and none too easy part that her talents were quite first class. Mr. Pearson is to be congratulated on his success as stage manager, which was as evident as his impersonation of Talbot Champneys.

DRAMATIS PERSONE.

Sir Geoffrey Champneys Bart. . . Mr. G. H. Ardson
Talbot Champneys (his son) . . . Mr. G. W. Pearson
Perkyn Middlewick (a retired Butterman) . . . Mr. E. J. Moss
Charlie Middlewick (his son) . . . Mr. D. Wallace
Violet Melrose . . . Miss Moorehead
Mary Melrose (her poor cousin) . . . Miss Pratt
Clarissa Champneys . . . Mrs. Pearson
Belinda . . . Mrs. Moss

A DEPARTURE.

Mr. E. J. Moss, the local manager of Messrs. Dodwell & Co., Ltd., left with his family by s.s. *Triumph* for Hongkong and England on a short furlough. Mr. Moss expects to return about the middle of May.

PAKHOI.

[FROM OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT.]

Pakhoi, 11th February.

THE SUSPICIOUS CASE OF RECEIVING.

The principal of the Kwong Cheong Hing shop, who was arrested on suspicion of being in league with the pirates, is now released, after paying a fine of \$2,000. He was accused of receiving stolen goods, and of being in league with the pirates. At the trial nothing further was proved except that he had the stolen goods, but the prisoner pleaded that he bought the goods not knowing them to have been stolen. The heavy fine is to be devoted to educational purposes, but I hear that the prosecutors are not satisfied with this decision, and are going to appeal to the superior authorities at Canton.

EMIGRATION.

There are here at present a few French gentlemen recruiting emigrants for the construction of railway in Tonkin. Several batches of men have already left for Haiphong on board junks, and others are being eagerly procured.

NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE.

I hear that in the course of a few months there is going to be published here a weekly native paper, called the *Tung Sai Sun Mun* ("Eastern and Western News"), issuing from the German Mission. The plant has already arrived, consisting of a printing machine and several thousand pounds of Chinese type, besides paper-cutting and wire-stitching machines.

They propose also to print Chinese educational books. The promoters are quite confident of success.

THE GREAT FIRE AT SHANGHAI.

Details of the great fire which took place at Shanghai on the 11th inst., as reported in our telegraph columns on the 13th inst., are now to hand, from which it appears that it was a terrific conflagration. The fire broke out at a few minutes after 5 p.m. on the 11th inst., and in a very short time had assumed immense proportions, the whole of the top story of the huge Fuhlee building, bursting into one vast blaze. The fire broke out in the millinery department, but what was the cause of the outbreak was unknown, though it was believed to be the work of incendiaries, as there had been disputes and complaints against the Chinese staff. This, however, was the only foundation for the suspicion of incendiarism.

The fire-brigade was promptly on the spot, but from the first it was seen that all attempts to save the main building would be hopeless, as the fire made such rapid progress that it was nearly burnt out before anything could be done, and attention was turned to preventing a spread to the neighbouring offices. As the fire progressed the lifts gave way and came down with a run, while cartridges began to fall from the burning floor above, exploding in the smouldering debris below. Meanwhile employees were rushing about trying to secure and place in safety what books and other property they could, but the shower of burning debris from above drove them outside, while cartridges continued to explode in large numbers. The staircases were one mass of flame, which surrounded the whole building. One of the first difficulties to contend with was the bursting of the ram of the hydraulic lift. The whole pressure of a 6-inch pipe was thus wasted, as it only flooded the lower centre of the building, and the hose-reels attached to the street hydrants would not play above the first-floor windows, while the fire was raging, furiously and unchecked, above. One of the engines also unfortunately broke down after a time.

Detachments of blue-jackets were landed from the British and French ships and the Italian man-of-war and gave welcome assistance in fighting the flames. The premises of Watson and Co. were deluged to keep the walls cool and prevent a spread, and were thus considerably damaged, but the building was saved. Kelly and Walsh's premises were threatened, but, the wind changing, the danger there was averted.

Another danger menacing all was the burning of the electric light wires, the live wires hanging but a few feet above the heads of the firemen and spectators. The current was, however, cut off as soon as notice was given to the Company.

Messrs. Hall and Holtz's premises were completely consumed, as were the Russian Consulate quarters, in the same building, M. Kliemenow, the Russian Consul-General, who was ill, having to escape in his sleeping-suit, all his effects being destroyed, but the books and papers in the office were saved. Messrs. Hung Chong were also completely burnt out.

The following is a fairly correct estimate of the total loss by the fire:—

Hall & Holtz 440,000 taels, Hung Chong, 75,000 taels; Russian Consulate-General contents 5,000 taels; damages to S. Watson & Co., Ltd., Nabholz & Co., and Lane, Crawford & Co., Ltd., by fire and water, 15,000 taels—making a total of Tls. 535,000.

The Fuhlee block and Hung Chong's premises were owned by Messrs. David Sassoon & Co. and the buildings were insured in the South British Fire Company. Messrs. Hall & Holtz were insured as to their stock with a number of companies.

It appears that the "warship" which the Korean Government purchased recently from the Mitsui Bussan Kaisha is now being transferred to an American resident of Chemulpo. Negotiations, a Chemulpo despatch states, are in progress between the parties concerned as to the amount to be paid for the vessel. It is added that the warship, on becoming the property of the American, will be altered into a merchant steamer.

HONGKONG AND SHANGHAI BANKING CORPORATION.

HALF-YEARLY MEETING.

The ordinary half-yearly meeting of the shareholders in the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation was held on the 21st inst. in the City Hall. Mr. A. J. Raymond (chairman) presided, and there were also present Mr. H. E. Tomkins, Hon. C. W. Dickson, E. Goetz, A. Haupt, H. Shubart, E. Shellim, N. A. Siebe, H. W. Slade, C. A. Tomes, E. S. Wheeler, (directors), J. R. M. Smith (chief manager), G. C. C. Master, H. M. Bevis, H. Humphreys, H. N. Mody, J. S. Nicholson, C. W. May, C. J. Gonsalves, J. R. Michael, H. E. R. Hunter, Lau Wei Chun, E. Georg, J. A. Chinoy, H. A. F. Denny, D. Forbes, P. A. Barlow, G. de Champeaux, K. McK. Ross, E. A. Hewett, J. Orange, G. H. Potts, G. M. Bain, A. V. Apar, H. M. Amaze, F. B. Marshall, Ho Fook, E. S. Joseph, J. M. S. Alves, J. H. Lewis, R. K. Leigh, W. H. Potts, P. H. Potts, J. J. Leiria, W. Lysartt, Capt. F. D. Goddard, S. Hancock, and others.

The notice convening the meeting was read.

The CHAIRMAN after reading the directors' report said—Gentlemen,—Your directors are very pleased to come before you with the favourable report which I have just read. I feel sure that all our shareholders, and more especially those at home, will be glad to find that, notwithstanding the uneasiness which has prevailed during the period under review, in consequence of the political situation in the Far East, we are able to recommend a dividend of £1.10. and a bonus of 10/- per share, and also the transfer of \$500,000 to credit of silver reserve fund. As regards our sterling reserve of £1,000,000 your directors have deemed it advisable to make some adjustment of our investments in view of the serious fall in the price of all first class securities. You will observe in the balance sheet that our holdings of £570,000 2½ per cent. Consols have been written down to 85. The National War Loan of which we hold £255,000 is redeemable in 1901 at par and that stock is quoted at about 97; we have therefore allowed it to remain unchanged in our books at 90, but the other sterling securities amounting to £325,000, all of them gilt-edged stocks, have been written down to £286,000, which is considerably lower than the present market prices. Then apart from reserve fund our investments appearing under the heading of Consols, Colonial and other securities, as \$8,784,467.89 have likewise suffered in the general depreciation and for these ample provision has also been made. We may reasonably expect to see all these securities recover in value in course of time, but I am sure it will be a satisfaction to everyone interested in the welfare of the Bank to know that we are continuing along these safe lines of policy which have brought us to our present strong position. (Applause.) I may mention that these securities largely consist of British Government stocks. We have such a big interest in the Far East in the ordinary course of our business that it has not been the custom to include that field in our separate investments to any great extent. Compared with the last report the other figures in the balance sheet do not present any very striking feature. Deposits have slightly increased, our note circulation continues to expand and bills payable stand at \$20,882,914.55 against \$12,273,675.78 last half year, but both these items are usually higher in December than in June. On the other side the amount of our cash and also of our bullion in hand and in transit is larger; bills discounted loans and credits show a decrease of about \$7,000,000, while in bills receivable there is an increase of \$11,000,000. All the writing down which I have mentioned has been effected out of current profits, so that the result of the half year's working is really better than at first sight appears from the report; that result, gentlemen, bears better testimony than any words from me, to the efficiency of our managers and staff generally, and in order to mark our appreciation of their successful efforts we have voted them a bonus of fifteen per cent. on their salaries, and this I trust will meet with your approval. (Applause.) I do not think that there has been anything in the general course of trade as reflected in our business which calls for special comment, unless it be the pheno-

menal rise and violent fluctuations in the price of cotton and this, I fear, will have an adverse effect on the import trade all over the East for some time to come. And now, gentlemen, in conclusion, one word on the political situation. In my speech at the last general meeting six months ago I ventured to express the hope that the efforts of diplomacy might prove successful in bringing about an amicable settlement of the difficulties then threatening the peace of the Far East. Unfortunately that hope has not been fulfilled. All that I can now say is that I very earnestly desire—I am sure we all very earnestly desire—that the war which has broken out between Russia and Japan may be brought quickly to an end, and that it may result in a lasting peace based on the principle of the maintenance of the integrity of China (including the rich and fertile province of Manchuria, with its vast commercial potentialities) and the effectual operation of the policy of the open door with equal trading opportunities for all. In the meantime you may rest assured that the management is fully alive to the gravity of the situation, and will use every endeavour to safeguard your interests. If any shareholder desires any further information I shall be glad to answer any question. (Applause.)

There being no questions, the CHAIRMAN moved that the report and accounts be adopted.

Mr. MARSHALL—Mr. Chairman, and gentlemen, I have much pleasure in seconding the adoption of the report and accounts as presented. The report before us combined with the able speech we have just heard from the chair cannot fail to meet with the utmost satisfaction from all shareholders. Gentlemen, such results as the report shows cannot be achieved without the most careful attention and thorough efficiency on the part of all responsible, and I think you will agree with me when I express great satisfaction that the ability and efficiency of our managers and staff is being recognised in a small way by the bonus we are asked to vote to them. (Applause.)

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. MASTER proposed, and Mr. HUMPHREYS seconded, that the appointment of Mr. C. A. Tomes to the Board of Directors in place of the Hon. R. Shewan resigned be confirmed, and that Mr. E. Goetz and the Hon. C. W. Dickson be re-elected.

The motion was agreed to.

On the motion of Mr. G. de CHAMPEAUX, seconded by Mr. McK. Ross, the Hon. C. S. Sharp and Mr. W. Hutton Potts were re-elected auditors.

The CHAIRMAN:—That is all the business, gentlemen. I thank you for your attendance. Dividend warrants will be ready on Monday.

Mr. ORANGE—Gentlemen, before we part I have pleasure in proposing a hearty vote of thanks to the chairman, the chief manager and staff of the Bank. The report which has just been passed to-day is an eloquent tribute to the ability and skill which they have displayed in the conduct of the Corporation. (Applause.)

The meeting then dispersed.

ANGLO-JAPANESE LOCOMOTIVE AND ENGINEERING CO., LD.

In order to comply with the Companies Ordinances of Hongkong, the first general meeting of this company was held on the afternoon of the 15th inst. at the registered offices of the Company, 39 and 41, Des Voeux Road, Hongkong, when Mr. Geo. K. Hall Brutton was voted to the chair.

The notice convening the meeting was taken as read.

The CHAIRMAN reported to the meeting that twelve acres of land, situated near Yokohama Kanagawa Ken, has been secured by purchase for 1,000 years, free from all charges except an Imperial tax of 2½ per cent. of the assessed value, for the site of the Company's works in Japan. This land is already levelled, it has a hard solid bottom, and is quite ready for building upon. It has its own wharf and it is adjoining the Yokohama-Tokyo line of the Imperial Railway, and it is within 400 yards of the railway station. "A more suitable site for our works it would be difficult to imagine, having as it has, water and railway accommodation ample for all its needs,

however large the works and business may ultimately develop into. All the plans of the works, including the working drawings, are completed, and they are here for the shareholders to see. We have received very low tenders from highly responsible contractors for the complete erection of the buildings, the same to be completed within four months of signing the contract. Over 50 per cent. of the capital of the company has been promised, and this will be paid after the Chinese New Year. As soon as the capital is paid in, the Company will proceed with the construction and equipment of the works, which will take about seven months to complete, and be ready to commence the manufacture of locomotives and other machinery. Within the last few days very favourable offers have been made to the manager, which, if accepted, will in themselves keep a large and important section of our works fully and constantly employed. The Company is very fortunate in having secured as its managing agents the well-known firm of Messrs. Samuel & Co. of London, Yokohama, Formosa, and elsewhere. Having regard to the influence and interests they have in Japan, Formosa, and the East generally, that firm is in an undoubted position to gauge what the prospects of the Company are, and as you know, they are backing their opinion by subscribing largely to the capital of the Company. The present war between Japan and Russia, whatever its ultimate result may be, cannot adversely effect the prospects of the Company, for there are at present in Japan more than 4,000 miles of railway opened to traffic and in full and very profitable operation. Anyone who has travelled in that country cannot fail to have been impressed by the enormous traffic, and with the fact that these 4,000 odd miles of railway are totally inadequate to the traffic requirements. Every train is overcrowded with passengers, and all the goods stations and depots are always piled up and almost bulging with merchandise waiting transit. The railway companies are busy doubling the existing lines, and the construction of new railways is being pushed on in almost every part of the Empire, and as soon as each section is completed it is opened for traffic. All the railways are very short of rolling stock, as the almost congested state of traffic to which I have referred proves; but they are remedying that as fast as they can. Locomotives and rolling stock will always be needed by these railways, and will be needed in increasing numbers as the traffic goes on developing; in fact the traffic development depends almost entirely on the increase of rolling stock. Locomotives and rolling stock wear out and require frequent repairs and renewals. Most of that work we expect to get. Now when we bear in mind the very great advantages which the Company will be able to offer in the very important matter of quicker and cheaper delivery of engines and rolling stock than if these were ordered from Europe or elsewhere (for from whatever foreign country they may be ordered, it takes from 14 months to 2 years, and frequently even longer than that, to obtain delivery, with its attendant inconveniences to the railways ordering them—the cost of inspecting in the country where the engines are built, the erection there for steam trial, the taking to pieces again, the packing for shipment to Japan, the cost of delivering to ship, the high rate of freight and insurance on heavy machinery such as locomotives, the cost of landing and re-erecting in Japan, and the very high import duty on machinery there adds enormously to the cost of the engines) you will at once realise the very favourable position the Company will be in to successfully deal with at least a share of the work for the Japanese railways. For even a share of the orders given by the Japanese railways, and a small share at that, will be sufficient to keep the rest of our works constantly and very profitably employed; profitably employed even if we have to sell at very much lower prices than are paid for imported engines. But, gentlemen, I do not think we shall have to do so, for it is the intention of the management to turn out work of the highest possible standard only. Our manager has long been closely connected with the design and sale of engines holding the very highest reputation in Japan, engines for which higher prices have been invariably paid than

for any others in that country; and it is his intention, and our intention as well, to take care that we build engines equal in every respect to the very best production of any part of the world. To that end our workshops will be equipped with the best and most modern labour saving and other machinery, the whole of which will be driven by independent electrical motors, excepting such as will be worked by hydraulic and pneumatic power. We shall have our own steel converters, and our own copper-rolling mills; in fact we intend our works to be thoroughly up to date in every detail, so that no one will be able to turn out better work than ourselves, or at a lower cost price. Besides having our own wharf, our works will have a double line of rails connecting it with practically the whole of the Japanese railway system, so that the bulk of our deliveries will take place on our own premises. We shall have little or no packing to do, no shipments excepting for work for abroad, no expensive freight and insurance, and no import duty to be paid by our customers. The only import duty we shall have to pay will be 5 per cent. on whatever raw materials we have to import, which is a mere bagatelle on what has to be paid by imported finished machinery. Gentlemen, these savings alone will mean giving us an advantage of more than 20 per cent. over any of our competitors. Then there will be the very great convenience to the railway companies themselves in being able to have their own inspectors on the spot so as to see for themselves that all the conditions of the specifications are honestly adhered to. The saving to them on that item alone will be a very considerable one. The works will be under experienced and most careful management. Each department will be in charge of the very best and most experienced working foreman we can obtain from the best of the British workshops. The business management will be in the hands of our managing agents, and I think you will agree with me that the company's interests will at all times be as thoroughly and as efficiently looked after as it is possible for any interest to be. With all these advantages we shall be placed in an unique position, with practically no competition (certainly none worth mentioning) either for new work or for repairs. Under such circumstances we can, and we do, look forward to unusually high dividends being paid, and I do not for one moment think that our expectations in that respect will not be amply and fully realised as soon as we get our works in operation."

Mr. PAGET HETT proposed that the report be passed. This was seconded by Mr. MEURER and carried unanimously by the meeting.

Mr. FINCH proposed a vote of thanks to the Chairman, which was carried unanimously.

The proceedings then terminated.

HONGKONG BREWERY CO., LD.

A meeting of the above company was held at 15, Queen's Road Central on the 15th inst., Mr. G. A. Meurer being in the chair.

The CHAIRMAN read the following report:—Gentlemen,—This meeting is called for the purpose of complying with the Companies Ordinances of Hongkong, one of which provides that a meeting of the company must be held within four months of the registration of the company. It is for this purpose therefore that you have been asked to attend here to-day. As we have met together I will take this opportunity of informing you that in accordance with the memorandum of association of the Company, two agreements therein referred to, and made between Mr. E. A. Meurer of the one part, and Mr. W. C. Jack, on behalf of the company, of the other part, have been ratified and carried into effect, and the necessary assignments made to the company. There has been a surrender of the title-deeds to the Crown, and a new Crown lease granted to the company in respect of the two sections purchased by them, which are now known as Inland Lot No. 1705. On the Western Portion of this Lot No. 1705, the Metropole Hotel stands, and the eastern portion is a vacant piece of land. On this vacant piece of land it is intended to build the Brewery. Doubtless, some of you have noticed

that this piece of land is practically the bed of a watercourse. In the contract for the purchase from Sir C. P. Chater of this piece of land is a covenant by him to raise and level this section to a level with Section A, and to divert the watercourse, and build a nullah. As soon as this is done, the site will be ready for the Brewery buildings, or for any kind of building. The raising and levelling of the site to a level with Section A. has to be done at the expense of Sir P. Chater, and seeing that the price the Brewery Co. has paid for this site (which includes the raising and levelling) is only \$30,000, the company must be congratulated on owning a very suitable building site at a very moderate cost. I said just now that the site is practically the bed of a watercourse, and I should have explained that an abundance of pure, good water, suitable for beer-brewing purposes, flows through it. Samples of this water have been submitted to analysis, and have been pronounced to be suitable for the purpose of brewing good beer. Of this water, the company has an abundance for all its purposes, and beyond the expense of laying down pipes to convey it into our brewing vats and tanks, it will cost us nothing. At the side of and higher up than the level of our property is a dam or reservoir, from which the company is entitled to draw as much water (water of precisely the same suitable quality as that to which I have already referred), as will flow through a two-inch pipe, so that we are absolutely safe from a water point of view, even if our Brewery develops in time into a very large concern, and, as I have said, the water will cost us nothing. On the piece of land adjoining that upon which we intend to build our Brewery, is the building known as the Metropole Hotel, and it was at first intended to convert that building into our Brewery. But upon going closely into the cost, it was found that we could erect a new building, a building designed expressly for beer-brewing, for a very little more than it would cost to convert the Metropole Hotel into premises suitable for our purpose. We purchased the Metropole Hotel site for \$50,000, and after we had decided to build the Brewery on the adjoining site, we considered the advisability of applying for a licence to sell our beer in the Metropole Hotel. That however would have involved the immediate outlay of a large amount of money to put the premises in a proper state of repair, as well as the engagement of a suitable manager of the hotel—a by no means easy matter—and the annual payment of the cost of the licence, as well as the cost of keeping the premises in a state of good repair; it is doubtful whether we should have succeeded in obtaining a licence. Just as we were discussing this matter we received an application from Mr. James Christie, of the Bay View Hotel, for a lease of the Metropole Hotel, and after fully considering the matter, we decided to grant him a lease for 7 years, with the option of renewal for a further term of 7 years, on very satisfactory terms, and the lease has been completed. The terms are that the lessee at his expense at once puts the premises, inside and out, into a thorough state of repair to the satisfaction of the company, the cost of which is not to exceed \$5000—these repairs are now being got on with, also that during his lease he keeps the interior of the premises in a proper state of repair, and that during the term of his lease he binds himself to sell only the company's draught malt liquors and a satisfactory arrangement has been done with him as to the sale of bottled malt liquors. The net rental of the premises will give the company a return of about 10 per cent. per annum on the price paid for this portion of the lot. This is by no means a bad return in itself. We, however, expect to sell a large quantity of beer—draught and bottled—to the lessee of the Metropole Hotel, upon the sale of which we expect to derive a fair profit, but before any profit can be realised from the sale of beer, we must get our Brewery built and at work. We have been in communication with an experienced master-brewer in Germany, with whom we have arranged satisfactory terms. He is ready to come out and attend to the building and fitting up of the Brewery as soon as we are ready for him to come out. A few months would be sufficient to get our Brewery up and at work turning out beer, and the brewer I

have spoken of has the reputation of being an experienced brewer. I believe there is an ample market for all the beer we propose to brew: first, and as we intend brewing only first class beer and selling the same at reasonable prices it seems to me that as soon as we are in a position to supply good wholesome beer, there will be an immediate local demand for the same. What we need now is money. We want the rest of our shares taken up before we can put up our Brewery and commence brewing. With the prospect of the very paying concern we have in hand, there ought to be no difficulty in getting the whole of the capital subscribed, and I cannot help thinking that if this matter is properly brought to the notice of the subscribing public we shall have no difficulty in getting in all the money we need. Our property up to the present has cost \$80,000, of which sum we have paid \$40,000 (\$40,000 remaining on mortgage at 6 per cent. per annum). I have already explained to you that the rental of the Metropole Hotel is sufficient to pay 10 per cent. on the purchase price of that portion of our property and is therefore sufficient to pay 12 per cent. on the \$40,000 we have on mortgage, or in other words, to pay the 8 per cent. interest on our mortgage money and leave a margin to pay 4 per cent. on the \$40,000 we have already paid out of our funds for the property. While this cannot be considered an altogether unsatisfactory arrangement, it is not a satisfactory one, because the object for which the company is formed is to brew beer, and not merely to act as landlords. I think there is no doubt whatever that as soon as our shares are taken up, and we are thus placed in a position to carry out the object for which the company was formed, we shall be in a position to pay good dividends to our shareholders. There seems to be no doubt whatever that we shall pay good dividends, dividends sufficiently high to speedily put our stock at a premium, and to keep it at a premium; but until the public subscribe for the balance of our shares, and enable us to get on with our legitimate work—if I may so express myself—I am afraid, gentlemen, you will have to be content with the 4 per cent. return your capital is now earning for you. The matter remains with you and with the public, with you if you desire to reap the full benefit of carrying on the business of brewing beer by increasing your subscriptions sufficiently to enable the work to be properly carried on; with the public on their taking up the unallotted shares of the company. As soon as this is done, you will be in a position to derive the full benefit arising from the brewing of beer—and in the opinion of those capable of forming a fair and proper estimate the benefit will be a real one—until then, as I have said, you will have to be content with a return of 4 per cent. of your money. It is the intention of the Police to take over the Bay View Hotel, and convert it into a Police Station at a very early date. Mr. Christie, the present proprietor, will therefore have to remove. It is his intention to apply to the Justices for permission to remove his business to the Metropole Hotel, and doubtless this will be granted. There will then be no licensed premises for intoxicating liquors between Praya East and the Metropole Hotel. I have already explained to you what has been done by your managers in the matter of the mortgage and lease, and I shall be glad if you will express your approval of what they have done.

It was proposed by Mr. E. C. WILKS and seconded by Mr. LAM CHOI PANG that the Report as read be adopted. This was agreed to.

The O. S. K. S. *Tahung Maru*, brought down from Wuhu by the s.s. *Samshui*, arrived at Shanghai on the 5th inst. She was taken up to Tungkadoo to have her cargo taken out, and be prepared for docking. The whole of the vessel was destroyed by the flames. The hulls which is of steel, is practically intact, though much blistered by the heat of the fire of the upper works. Only the iron joists and girders remain. The *Tahung* was to remain at the wharf for about a week, and then go into dock for survey. Should it be considered worth while, she will then be repaired.

CHINA FIRE INSURANCE CO., LD.

The following is the report for presentation to the shareholders at the thirty-fifth ordinary meeting, to be held at the Company's offices on the 10th March at 11.30 a.m.:—

1902.	
The balance at credit of working account as per last report was	\$262,897.67
Add premia since received	460.61
	\$263,358.28
Deduct claims paid in 1903	43,075.97
„ return premia, &c., &c.	7,413.43
	50,489.40
Balance of Profit	\$212,868.88

It is proposed to apportion this sum as follows:—

Dividend of \$6 and bonus of \$1 per share on 20,000 shares	\$14,000.00
Bonus to contributors of premia	100.25
Addition to extra reserve fund, which will then stand at \$125,675.56 as shown in the annexed Balance Sheet	52,915.14
Transfer to investment fluctuation account, to meet difference between cost and market value of investments on 31st December, 1903	15,000.00
Write off loss on sale of rural Building Lots Nos. 42 and 84	1,068.49
Bonus to office staff	3,785.00
	\$212,868.88

1903.

The balance at credit of working account at the close of this year was \$329,474.48, showing a gain of \$66,149.81 over the previous 12 months, which must be considered satisfactory.

DIRECTORS.

Messrs. D. M. Mosses, G. Balloch, R. Shewan and C. Michelau resigned their seats on leaving the Colony and Messrs. E. Shellim, H. W. Slade, C. A. Tomes and A. Haupt were invited to fill the vacancies on the Board. These appointments will require the confirmation of shareholders.

Messrs. A. G. Wood and E. Shellim retire by rotation, and, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and A. R. Lowe have audited the annexed accounts and offer themselves for re-election.

The accounts are as follows:—

BALANCE-SHEET, 31st December, 1903.	
LIABILITIES.	\$ c.
Capital account	400,000.00
Reserve fund	1,000,000.00
Extra reserve fund	125,675.56
Investment fluctuation account	2,561.75
Account payable:—	\$ c.
Dividend for 1902	140,000.00
Bonus for 1902 and sundries	20,175.84
	160,175.84
Working account, 1903:—	
Balance at credit	329,047.48
	\$2,017,460.43

ASSETS.	\$ c.
Cash at bankers	32,981.52
Fixed deposits at banks:—	
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	\$ c.
Chartered Bank of I. A. & C.	140,000.00
Mercantile Bank of India, Ltd.	65,000.00
	50,000.00
	255,000.00
Investments:—	
Chinese Imperial Government E. bonds	\$ c.
Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Ltd. debentures	85,565.69
Hongkong Club debentures	103,152.50
Hongkong Hotel Co., Ltd., debentures	43,400.00
Shanghai Land Investment Co., Ltd., debentures	50,000.00
Shanghai Waterworks Co., Ltd., debentures	49,877.40
Shares in public companies	8,472.22
	132,840.00
	473,307.81

Loans on mortgage:—	
On properties in Hongkong	\$ c.
Furniture account:—	
Office furniture, &c.	1,188,300.00
Accounts receivable:—	
Premia due from agencies, interest due on deposit and investments, &c.	640.00
	69,231.11
	\$2,017,460.43

WORKING ACCOUNT.

1st January to 31st December, 1903.

Dr.	\$ c.
To charges account:—	
Rent, salaries, legal and surveyors' fees, taxes, stamps, stationery, &c.	33,539.57
Directors' and auditors' fees	7,401.00
	40,939.57
To commission account:—	
Agents' commissions	\$ c.
To fire brigades account:—	
Contributions at agencies, &c.	8,110.60
To losses account, 1903:—	
Claims paid after deduction of re-insurances	17.48
To amount written off:—	
Furniture account	46,273.55
To balance	70.00
	329,047.48
	\$446,458.68
Cr.	\$ c.
By premium account:—	
Premiums received after deduction of re-insurances	326,636.62
By interest account:—	
Amount at credit, including interest due on deposits and investments, &c.	119,646.77
By transfer fee account:—	
Amount at credit	175.29
	\$446,458.68

SUPREME COURT.

Friday, 19th February.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

THE CALENDAR.

There were on the calendar six cases, implicating eight persons. The most serious charge was one of manslaughter against a husband and wife from the New Territory.

CHARGE OF THEFT.

Wong Chau was brought up on a charge of stealing \$238 from Mr. H. S. Gaskell's house, 7, Queen's Gardens, on 7th February.

He pleaded not guilty.

The Hon. Attorney-General Sir Henry S. Berkeley (who was instructed by Mr. F. B. L. Bowley, Crown Solicitor), stated that he had understood the prisoner was going to plead guilty, and the complainant was not in attendance, being away on military duty. Accordingly he was not prepared to proceed with the case.

His Lordship put it down for trial on Monday.

ARMED ROBBERIES.

Leung Kun and Chan Lai were charged with having on the 21st January committed an armed assault at Yaumati Bay upon Chau Yow and Chau Chun, with intent to commit a robbery.

They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. J. D. Auld, S. Swart, H. A. Siebs, Paul Lucker, J. Arnold, O. I. Ellis, and J. H. MacLaren.

The Attorney-General in opening the case said that in the early morning of the 21st January last the prosecutor and his family were asleep on their boat at Yaumati when the two prisoners accompanied by another man boarded the boat and attacked the people on board with a knife. A fight ensued. Prisoners got the worst of it, and after inflicting cuts upon one of the parties in the boat, Chau Chun, they jumped overboard. The two prisoners were picked up by a police patrol-boat. The question for the jury would be what the intention of these men was in boarding the boat.

Evidence having been taken, the jury found the prisoners guilty of assault with intent to rob.

His Lordship stated that the prisoners must know perfectly well they were two of a gang of robbers who went to rob this junk on the night in question. It was disgraceful that people in Yaumati Bay should be robbed in this way in the middle of the night. They had been convicted of an offence which was punishable with life imprisonment. In all the circumstances he would sentence them each to four years' imprisonment with hard labour and to receive 24 strokes with the birch-rod within the first week of their incarceration.

ANOTHER ROBBERY CASE.

Tse Sin, a young-looking Chinese, was brought up on a charge of having on 18th August, at Cheungshawan, assaulted Wong Lai Wing, a returned emigrant from California, and his wife U Fung, in their house there, and robbed them of \$400, a pair of bracelets, and a pair of earrings.

A plea of not guilty was tendered.

The same jury sat as in the first case.

The Attorney-General in his opening statement said that the prosecutor and his wife were in their house at one o'clock in the morning in question, the man asleep and the woman sitting up mending clothes, when a gang of four robbers, of whom prisoner was one made, their entrance through the roof. The robbers seized the two occupants of the house, bound them up, and then effected their purpose of robbing the place, and got clear away. Some time elapsed before the prisoner was identified by the old woman and arrested at the cement works. The question in the case was whether or no the identification was sufficiently established.

Evidence was then taken, after hearing which the jury by a majority of six to one found the prisoner guilty.

His Lordship remarked that this was a most cowardly robbery and sentenced the prisoner to five years' imprisonment with hard labour and to receive 24 strokes of the birch within the first week of his imprisonment.

A SERIOUS CHARGE.

Mo Yeung, alias Mo Ng, was brought up on a charge of having on the 25th and 26th January criminally assaulted two girls aged 13 and 15 respectively.

He pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs A. C. Moore, H. W. Merrill, J. L. R. Cotter, W. E. Schmidt, J. O. Hughes, C. H. J. Thun, and C. E. B. Herst.

Mr. E. H. Sharp, K.C., barrister-at-law, conducted the prosecution for the Crown.

The evidence was recapitulated in the same strain as already reported, when the case was committed by the Magistrate to the Sessions.

The prisoner had no real defence, but remarked that if he did what he was accused of "may my bones lie at the bottom of the sea and my flesh float on its surface!" His Lordship then summed up the evidence, and pointed out how the law bore upon the question, and the jury, after but a short consultation, without retiring brought in a verdict of guilty, and Mo Leung, the prisoner, was then sentenced to two years' hard labour.

Saturday, 20th February.

IN CRIMINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR SIR WILLIAM M. GOODMAN (CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHARGE OF INFANTICIDE.

Pang Lung and his wife Cheung Kam Fung were brought up on a charge of having on 14th January at Fanling, in the Sheungshui district of the New Territory, killed their female infant child, aged eight days.

They pleaded not guilty.

The following jury was empanelled:—Messrs. T. Hunter, J. I. Andrew, H. A. Siebs, C. F. Grey, T. Arnott, S. Swart, and N. K. Davidson.

The Attorney-General in his opening statement said the charge against the prisoners was that they so neglected their infant child that it died; of having treated it so negligently and improperly contrary to the duty imposed upon them by nature as parents that it died. It appeared that the woman gave birth to a female child in Fanling village at her husband's house about the 6th of January. Fanling was just within the borders of the New Territory. On 14th January an Indian constable while on his patrol met the male prisoner about half-a-mile from his house carrying a bundle of matting. The constable stopped the man and on examining his bundle found the little child wrapped in it. The child had no clothing on it. The body was extremely emaciated, covered with sores, very dirty, bleeding at the right eye, and bruised in several places. The child was taken

to Sheungshui Police Station, where it died shortly afterwards. On a post-mortem examination it appeared that the child's stomach was absolutely empty. Dr. Hunter would tell them that in his opinion the child's death was due to neglect. When the constable met the male prisoner the latter was going in the direction of a stream, the Crown suggested that he was taking the bundle to the stream to put it in. His explanation was that his nephew was about to be married, and that as the presence of a dying child on such an occasion was contrary to Chinese custom they had therefore to dispose of it. The mother said the child was very weakly from its birth and subject to sores, and he gathered from her statement that she meant this—that the child was not able to be brought up and so they let it die.

Evidence was then called. Three relatives of the prisoners who had been subpoenaed to give evidence as to the birth of the child were absent and their bail was estreated. Evidence was given by the Indian constable who arrested the male defendant; by Sergeant Gerrard of Sheungshui Station; the Chinese doctor, Lau Lai; Dr. Hunter, who made the post-mortem examination; and the sergeant-interpreter, who took the prisoners' statements.

The male prisoner when asked if he had anything to say, stated that his wife gave birth to the child on 6th January. Three days after its birth some sores came out on it and it could not take milk on the seventh morning. They called an old woman to come and see it. She asked him how long it was born and he told her it was a six-months' child. The old woman said there was no use of looking at it; that its destiny was fixed, as it had not been carried for the full period of gestation. The child died on the night of the 14th. When he was intercepted by the constable he was carrying the body to Shekfu market-town. They in the country did not know his Lordship's laws; if they had known them they would have got the necessary permission and there would not have been this trouble.

The female prisoner had nothing to say.

Dr. Lau Lai, re-called, stated that the child was a fully-born child.

His Lordship in charging the jury said that there was nothing different between the law of China and the law of England with regard to infanticide. There was no evidence on that point, however, and therefore he would ask them to dismiss that from their minds; but at the same time the prisoners were rather suggesting that according to the Chinese law it was all right. It was nothing of the kind. There had been repeated proclamations issued by the Chinese Government against the custom of infanticide; he had read translations of these himself. There certainly was a prevalent custom on the part of parents that if they got a superfluous baby, especially if it was a female, they thought as little of it as of a puppy and allowed it to die.

The jury without retiring returned an unanimous verdict of guilty, but recommended the prisoners to mercy.

His Lordship in passing sentence said the prisoners had behaved very badly. Even the animals took care of their little off spring. They were human beings; that little child never asked to be brought into the world. The prisoners brought it into the world and it was their bounden duty to take care of it and tend it. The law of China as well as the law of England threw that duty on the parents. He knew that in some parts of China there had been custom of getting rid of superfluous female babies by drowning them. For many centuries past the Emperors from time to time had issued proclamations forbidding such a custom under severe penalties. Therefore even according to the Chinese laws the prisoners had no excuse for what they had done. His Lordship bore in mind that they were very ignorant people, but he must make some sort of example of them so as to warn people round their neighbourhood that they must not do the same thing. Taking into consideration the jury's recommendation to mercy he would pass sentence on each of the prisoners of six months' imprisonment with hard labour.

The Court adjourned till to-day at 10 a.m.

REVIEWS.

The Directory and Chronicle for 1904 Hongkong: Daily Press Office.

The Directory and Chronicle for 1904 has been issued, and the bulk of the present edition is no doubt a good excuse for its somewhat tardy appearance. The work not only covers the whole of the Far East, and is constantly including new ports and places, but swells yearly with the growth of the various foreign communities. The task of collecting information and the work of revising these ever growing lists is one requiring the greatest care, and the attainment of accuracy must necessarily be difficult owing to the changes which take place even whilst the book is in process of publication. The present edition seems to have been compiled with great care, and fully sustains the high reputation achieved by this now veteran *vade mecum*, now in its forty-second year of publication. As we have hinted, it has gained considerably in bulk, being some three hundred pages larger than last year's edition. The Directory alone, not counting the advertisements, fills upwards of 1,160 pages. Amongst the additions to the "Chronicle" may be mentioned the Commercial Treaties made by China with Japan and the United States. The revised Customs Tariff of Japan, which came into force last year, is given in a form which shows the changes made in the former tariff as well as the conventional or Treaty Tariff rates where these exist. In addition to the usual maps and plans, which have been corrected and brought up to date, a plan and description of the new Russian port of Dalny have been added, and these will prove of exceptional interest at the present moment, when this city and the neighbouring one of Port Arthur are likely to be the scenes of historic and epoch-making events. No effort has been spared to include changes in the Directory to the end of 1903, and so far as it is possible the lists are brought up to that date. It may be noted that in the lists of ships and officers of the Russian and Japanese squadrons the most recent additions to these fleets are included, a fact that will assist reference in connection with naval engagements now taking place or impending. Advertisers appear to be every year more largely recognising its value as a medium, and the pictorial pages are growing numerous. From the readers' point of view one could wish that these thick pages could be relegated to the end of the book, but advertisers know their business, and, like the lovers of the play, are evidently alive to the desirability of securing good places.

SPORTING NOTES.

(Daily Press, 13th February.)

There is not so much in the way of sport in Hongkong to-day as usual. Perhaps the war and the approach of the Races combined make the interest taken in cricket, football, etc., more languid temporarily. The Cricket Ground is given over to a League match and the chief football ground to a Rugby game of not the highest importance. Moreover, there is no yachting, so the day altogether is uneventful compared with recent Saturdays.

The League cricket to-day comprises the fixtures between the A. O. C. and the Parsees, the Civil Service and the R. E., and the H.K.C.C. Reserves and the Craigengower C. C. The last mentioned should be the best game, for the Club Reserves are making a good bid for fourth place and are not quite out of the running for third if they can defeat the Craigengower men. The table, arranged slightly differently from the usual style, shows the various teams' positions to be as follows:—

	Pld	To Play	Pts
A.O.C.	11	3	30
Civil Service C.C.	10	4	22
Craigengower C.C.	11	3	20
R.E.	9	5	15
H.K.C.C. Reserves	10	4	12
H.M.S. Tamar....	7	7	9
R.A.M.C.	9	5	4
Parsees C.C.	9	5	9

The Craigengower can make themselves fairly sure of third place by winning to-day

and would go up at once to second place if they were to win and the Civil Service to lose to-day; but the Civil Service would still be in a better position really, with a match in hand. The R. E. are still in the running, but I do not fancy they will finish higher than fourth or fifth.

Similar difficulties to those in the Football Shield Competition arise in connection with the Hockey Cup. The first round was to have been completed on the 10th inst., but the *Leviathan v. Centurion* tie has not been decided. The second round must be finished on or before the 22nd inst., but as the *Ocean* has to play the winners of that tie, and the 93rd Burmas 2nd team has to meet the *Vengeance* there must either be delay or scratching. After their fine victory in Wednesday over the 93rd Burmas 1st team the 110th Mahrattas must be warmly supported for the Cup. They and the Burmas, second string are now the only non-naval sides left in. The interest of the Hockey Club in the season must be rather spoiled by their defeat in their first tie by what was considered the weakest naval team in. Friendly games must fill the rest of their match-card.

It will be seen that the Hongkong Boat Club is announcing a regatta next month over a new course—from Wanchai to Causeway Bay. With all the talent at the Boat Club's disposal there should be some good racing seen. The programme is not settled yet. May we hope to see a Canton crew over here?

(Daily Press, 20th February.)

The past week has been made memorable in the history of Hongkong sport by W. C. D. Turner's score of 198 against the United Services on Tuesday and Wednesday. It is said that Turner really reached the coveted second "century," 2 runs off his bat being wrongly credited by an umpire to the byes; but I cannot vouch for this. Two runs, however, make no difference to so fine a performance, which coupled with his two previous hundreds and his 88 against Shanghai—not to mention his record last season—mark him out as one of the best bats the Far East has ever seen. It is with great regret that Hongkong will see him depart next week. He is always an interesting player to watch, for he joins an ability to score at a good pace to a finished style. R. Hancock's 130 in the same match was overshadowed by Turner, but was nevertheless a sterling innings. He took longer than Turner to get his eye in, and never scored as fast, but he is a most valuable batsman; in bowling he did not meet with so much success as of late. But for these two men, the H.K.C.C. would have done poorly; 71 was the total combination of the other nine. Scoring on the part of the Services was much more level; but Heath's 75 in the first innings stood out by a lot. As he also took 6 wickets for only 48 runs (in an innings of 437) he is entitled to rank with the two Club batsmen as a hero of the match. There is no better all-round athlete in the Colony than the Mahratta lieutenant.

To-day the central Cricket Ground is taken for a game between the H.K.C.C. and a Hockey Club team captained by T. C. Gray, Hon. Sec. of the H.K.H.C. As H. Hancock, Capt. P. G. Davies, and other prominent cricketers figure in the ranks of the Hockey Club, the match should be interesting. Other fixtures to-day include the League matches between the Civil Service C.C. and R.A.M.C., and the Craigen-gower C.C. and the R.E. Neither the H.K.C.C. Reserves nor the Parsees take the field in the competition, and H.M.S. *Tamar* has scratched. Unless the Club Reserves can overtake the Royal Engineers in the few remaining fixtures there is not likely to be any change in the present order.

A very interesting Association football match comes on for decision to-day on the Club ground, the H.K.F.C. and U.M.S. *Ocean* meeting in the second round of the Challenge Shield. The Club has a full team now, Danby having gone forward again and C. T. Kew coming in at half-back. Judging by the performances of the two teams against the *Cressy* this week, the civilians should have a fair chance of victory, for whereas they drew with

the *Cressy* team on Monday in a friendly game, the score being 1 all, on Thursday the *Cressy* inflicted a 4-1 defeat on the *Ocean*, the game being a China (Naval) League fixture. When I wrote last week I was unaware of the *Albion's* defeat of the *Tamar* and the *Cressy's* victory over the Sherwood Foresters in the second round of the Shield. This ignorance was shared by the general public, as both matches were played off without the previous advertisement customary in other seasons. This is a pity, for both matches seem to have been worth watching.

The Club Rugby team came a cropper on Thursday, the *Ocean's* XV. beating them by a dropped goal and a try to nil. After last Saturday's sixteen-point majority against the *Cressy's* Rugbyists, this was a disappointment. The Club backs seem quite at sea at times—perhaps this is natural against naval teams!—and badly feel the loss of Barnes. Chard's reappearance was welcomed forward.

The departure by the *Gera* on the 17th inst. of Mr. Frank Browne, the former Hon. Sec. of the H.K.F.C., should not be passed over in silence. Mr. Browne has only gone for a year or 18 months, I believe, but his secretarial connection with Hongkong football has been so intimate that he cannot but be missed.

OMPAX.

HONGKONG RACES.

Last Sunday morning the Derby ponies put in some good performances, both the Roses being on the inside course and Aladdin on the outside course, which, being turf, is not so fast as the inside; so when considering the work of the 3 ponies allowance must be made for same, but it certainly appears to be a very close thing between them. Fiscal, Rocket, and Tai Yat's performances were also considered good, and the former is looked upon with great favour for the Valley Stakes. Times:—

Set, 1-mile:—36½, 1.11, 1.45½, 2.16.
Muscotel, 1-mile:—31, 1.05, 1.41, 2.16.
Rosa Rose, 1½-miles:—35½, 1.09, 1.41, 2.13½, 2.46½.
Rebel King, 1½-miles:—32, 1.07, 1.40, 2.14½.
Vancouver, 1½-miles:—33, 1.06, 1.38½, 2.10, 2.42½.
Discord, 1½-miles; last mile, 34, 1.08, 1.41½, 2.12½.
Algerine, 1½-miles;—last 1½, 39, 1.16½, 1.51, 2.21, 2.52½.
Polka, 1-mile:—32½, 1.07, 1.42, 2.15.
Quebec, ¾-mile:—34½, 1.07, 1.41½.
Coronet Rose, 1½-miles:—36, 1.09½, 1.41, 2.12½, 2.43½.
La France Rose, 1½-miles:—33, 1.06, 1.38½, 2.10½, 2.43½.
Aladdin, 1½-miles:—3½, 1.11, 1.43½, 2.17½, 2.50.
Royal, 1-mile:—35, 1.10½, 1.45, 2.19½.
Tee To Tum, ¾-mile:—33, 1.05½, 1.42.
Tai Yat, ¾-mile:—30, 1.03, 1.35½.
Kid, ¾-mile:—40, 1.18, 1.51½.
Standard and Manila, 1½-miles:—36½, 1.12, 1.48, 2.24½, 2.59½.
Rocket, 1-mile:—32, 1.05, 1.38, 2.10.
Fiscal, 1-mile:—36, 1.11, 1.45, 2.15.
Eclipse, 1-mile:—33-4/5, 1.06½, 1.38-4/5, 2.15.
Sentry, Mongoose, and Alarm, ¾-mile:—1.39.
Panjandrum and Emigrant, 1½-miles:—37½, 1.12, 1.42½, 2.23, 2.59½, 3.32½.
Talbot, 1-mile:—35, 1.07½, 1.44, 2.15½.
Chantauqua, ¾-mile:—last ½, 1.07.
Culex and Fair Trade, 1½-miles:—7, 1.13½, 1.48½, 2.23½, 2.57.
Che Sai, 1-mile:—33, 1.05½, 1.35½, 2.03½.
Dandy, ¾-mile:—30, 58½, 1.27.
Discovery, 1½-miles:—37½, 1.10½, 1.42½, 2.14½, 2.48.

The *Kokumin* publishes a Seoul telegram to the effect that on the 30th ult. Yi Yong-ik called on the Russian Minister and asked for information regarding the course that Russia intended to take in the present situation. Yi Yong-ik also requested that the Russian soldiers at Yong-ampho should be withdrawn, a request that has been made before. The Russian Minister is reported to have replied that the Japanese troops in Seoul must first be withdrawn before the Russian troops were sent across the frontier.

CRICKET.

H.K.C.C. V. UNITED SERVICES.

This two-days' match served to enhance the high name of Club cricket in Hongkong during the present season. The H.K.C.C. looks certain to go through its programme without a defeat now. The game that finished on the 17th furnished a victory over the combined Services team by an innings and 47 runs. It was more than half an hour after the advertised time on Tuesday when the United Services (whose side included 6 naval and 5 military men) commenced batting. A disastrous start was made, two wickets being down for 30 runs. Campbell and Heath then made a stand which lasted almost to tiffin time; in fact, when Campbell was bowled by Mackenzie for 43 the interval was taken. Chichester, Davies, and Punnett all helped Heath to put on runs, and the Mahratta officer was in fine form. Eventually he scored 75 out of the 10 while he was in. A collapse occurred when he left, and had not Horley, the last man in, shown some pretty forcing cricket the 200 would not have been reached. As it was, 210 went up on the board before a catch by the Club captain disposed of Boyd, Horley carrying his bat for 19. H. Hancock had the best bowling figures—4 for 20—but he only bowled 5 overs. The Club innings was opened by Sercombe Smith and R. Hancock, the latter of whom seemed nervous at the start, and was once or twice almost beaten by the bowlers. Smith stopped until the score was 42, when he was caught at the wicket by Blair. Then Turner joined Hancock, and the pair set out to make a new Club record. Neither forced the pace at the start, Hancock being the slower of the two, but the Services bowlers were met by a defence which foiled all their efforts. The score mounted gradually and runs began to come faster, while bowling changes were constant. The close of the day found both men not out, Hancock with 82 and Turner with 83 to their credit. The board showed 193 for 1 wicket, only 17 behind the Services' innings. Yesterday play was resumed, and the batsmen soon got their eyes in again. At tiffin time they were still together, and it was not until 330 that a break was made, Hancock succumbing to Gibson. The partnership had yielded no less than 282 runs. Turner went on until 393, receiving support from H. Hancock and Dixon. When two short of his second century he was out to a catch. His 198 was a magnificent performance. It is his third three-figure score this year, and included 39 boundaries. The Club innings eventually finished for 437. The Services went in to bat again at 2.35 o'clock, but failed to avert a single-innings defeat, though the last men batted well. Scores and analysis:—

UNITED SERVICES.	
First Innings.	Second Innings.
Lieut. Campbell, R.N., b Mackenzie 43	c and b R. Hancock 31
Lieut. Gibson, R.N., b Cooper 4	c and b Smith 33
Lieut. Toulmin, R.M., c Smith, b Dixon 7	b Smith 6
Lieut. Heath, 110th Mah., c Mackenzie, b Cooper 75	l.b.w., b Cooper 28
Major Chichester (capt.), c Smith, b H. Hancock 23	b Cooper 5
Capt. P. G. Davies, A.O.D., c H. Hancock, b Cooper 12	b Smith 0
Mr. Punnett, R.N., b H. Hancock 14	run out 9
Lt. Blair, R.N., b Dixon 0	b R. Hancock 18
Com. Farquhar, R.N., b H. Hancock 0	c Ponsonby, b Dixon 16
Capt. Boyd, R.A., c Smith, b Hancock 5	not out 25
Surgeon Horley, R.N., not out 19	c Lambie, b Cooper 0
Extras 8	Extras 9
Total 210	Total 180
H.K.C.C.	
R. Hancock (capt.), b Gibson 130	
T. Sercombe Smith, c Blair, b Campbell 16	
W. C. D. Turner, c Gibson, b Heath 198	
H. Hancock, c Campbell, b Heath 26	
J. T. Dixon, l.b.w., b Heath 11	
A. G. Ward, c Heath, b Farquhar 9	
A. Mackenzie, l.b.w., b Farquhar 18	
R. Ponsonby, b Heath 2	
J. E. Gillingham, c Chichester, b Heath 3	
C. E. S. Cooper, not out 4	
J. T. Lambie, b Heath 0	
Extras 25	
Total 437	

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

UNITED SERVICES.

	First Innings.				Second Innings.			
	O.	M.	R.	W.	O.	M.	R.	W.
Dixon.....	20	5	55	2	16.5	3	53	1
Cooper.....	18	4	57	3	10	2	33	3
E. Hancock.....	6	1	27	—	14	2	33	2
Sarcombe Smith.....	3	—	14	—	13	2	44	3
Mackenzie.....	1	2	29	1	—	—	—	—
H. Hancock.....	5	2	20	4	2	—	8	—

H.K.C.C.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Toulmin.....	10	2	48	—
Punnett.....	14	—	61	—
Campbell.....	10	—	61	1
Chichester.....	14	2	60	—
Heath.....	12.3	1	48	6
Farquhar.....	9	1	25	2
Blair.....	8	3	22	—
Gibson.....	8	—	58	1
Davies.....	6	—	39	—

H.K.C.C. V. H.K.H.C.

This game on the Cricket Ground on the 20th inst. was not treated very seriously, an anxiety to get away to see the field tie in the Happy Valley being very noticeable as the afternoon wore on. The Hockey Club went in first on a poor wicket and could do little with the bowling. H. Hancock at the beginning of the innings and T. C. Gray toward the end did fairly well, but the whole team (which included one Chinese substitute) could only total 87. It was just after half-past two when the Cricket Club went in, Pearce and Chichester being the first pair of batsmen. Pearce was soon out, but when Turner, whose last match this is, and who was captaining the team, joined Chichester, runs came pretty fast. Chichester left at 35 and Ward at 43, but Turner and Walter Dixon passed the Hockey Club's total before the latter was out. Turner ultimately made 70, but his innings was by no means faultless. Mackenzie did best of the remaining men, and finally a total of 191 was attained, Piper failing to turn up. Scores and analysis:—

HOCKEY CLUB.

H. Hancock, c sub. b Mackenzie.....	19
Lt. Gibson, R.N., c Ponsonby, b Mackenzie.....	2
Lt. Howard, R.N., b Chichester.....	6
J. Hooper, c Pearce, b Farquhar.....	11
Surg. Horley, R.N., c Farquhar, b Mackenzie.....	7
G. P. Lammert, st Ponsonby, b Mackenzie.....	2
T. C. Gray (capt.), c W. Dixon, b Farquhar.....	20
G. H. Edwards, b W. Dixon.....	2
Rev. H. R. Wells, not out.....	9
Tai Sam, c Pearce, b Farquhar.....	2
J. T. Dixon, c Chichester, b Farquhar.....	1
Extras.....	6
Total.....	87

H.K.C.C.

T. E. Pearce, c Gibson, b H. Hancock.....	0
Major Chichester, D.A.A.G., b Gibson.....	28
W. C. D. Turner (capt.), st J. T. Dixon, b H. Hancock.....	70
A. G. Ward, c Edwards, b H. Hancock.....	0
Walter Dixon, b H. Hancock.....	30
Com. Farquhar, R.N., c Howard, b H. Hancock.....	11
A. Mackenzie, c sub., b H. Hancock.....	33
C. H. Oxlade, not out.....	10
H. Phillips, run out.....	1
R. Ponsonby, b H. Hancock.....	1
D. Piper, absent.....	0
Extras.....	7
Total.....	191

BOWLING ANALYSIS.

HOCKEY CLUB.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Chichester.....	7	—	19	1
Mackenzie.....	9	2	27	4
Farquhar.....	8.4	3	21	4
Dixon.....	6	1	44	1

H.K.C.C.

	O.	M.	R.	W.
Hancock.....	20	2	106	7
Gibson.....	9	1	31	1
Lammert.....	5	1	20	—
Gray.....	3	—	22	—
Horley.....	2	—	5	—

Official returns published by the United States Government show that the value of cotton cloth exported from the United States to Hongkong in the year ended 30th June, 1903, was gold \$47,905 as compared with gold \$41,972 in the previous year; of other cotton manufactures the exports to Hongkong were \$3,118,731 as compared with \$2,674,311. The export of electrical machinery to Hongkong from the United States was \$18,808 as compared with \$11,873 for the year ended June 30th, 1902.

FOOTBALL.

H.K.F.C. v H.M.S. "OCEAN."

The above, a match in the second round of the Shield competition, was played on the 20th inst. resulting in a win for the Ocean by 3 goals to 2. It was a bright afternoon when the respective teams met on the parched-up Happy Valley ground. The Oceans wore dark green shirts; the Club wore white. That the game was of more than ordinary interest was shown by the large attendance. It is very doubtful whether there has been such a turn-out in the Happy Valley this season. The pavilion was filled, while three sides of the field itself were completely lined by a mixed gathering in which, of course, patches of red and of blue were frequent. As is always the case on such occasions, the Service men received far more encouragement by way of cheering, applause, etc., than the other side. There is little doubt that manifestations of good wishes from without have a material effect on the play. There seemed a slight tendency to "barracking" in one part of the field, but the individual who made himself prominent was obviously good-tempered, if indiscriminating. The Ocean kicked off with a strong sun in their eyes, and got a foul-kick in centre field awarded them within a minute from the start. Afterwards rather wild kicking the Club pressed up towards the Navy goal, and Cooper sent a nice pass out to Williams, who missed his kick and the ball went by. The homesters returned to the attack shortly, and Whitmore kicked past. The Ocean now had their first look-in. Downe and Walmsley piloted the ball down the centre; Vaughan finished badly from the wing and Hancock cleared. Another promising opening for the sailors was spoiled by Bonnar, at the expense of a fruitless corner. By a foul which was given against Bonnar for charging Walmsley, the Navy got into close quarters with Kew. After a scrimmage Walmsley sent in a stinger which the Club goal-keeper caught and threw out; but the referee decided that the ball had been over the goal-line, and awarded a point to the Ocean. Vaughan had other two fine tries within the next few minutes, missing by only a hair's-breadth. Hancock with Bonnar's assistance got play transferred to the Ocean end, and Cooper and Williams had both unsuccessful shots at McDiarmid's charge. Danby also had a fine long shot after a brilliant run up the wing—with equally ineffective results. A dangerous run by Hancock was stopped by McIntyre when the Club man looked like scoring. Then the Ocean got away on the run; when nearing the Club goal Cornabe passed into centre and Downe headed the ball through, giving Kew no chance to save. Just before half-time Vaughan sent in a beauty which struck the side of the net. Half-time scores—Ocean, 2; Club, 0. From the kick-off the Club pressed; the ball was returned by Schwann and was rushed up the left wing, Vaughan finishing with a long shot, which went past. Next time the Ocean attacked, Downe, who was keeping his forwards splendidly together, sent in a hard kick that just missed the goal. Then Spinner had a try from the right, followed up by another good attempt by Vaughan. From the goal-kick the Club took up the running. Hancock guided the ball down the centre and passed to Whitmore, who made a plucky attempt, but shot past. A couple of minutes afterwards Whitmore got hold of the ball again, and after contriving to dribble past both Hall and McIntyre he shot at close quarters and scored the first point for the Club. Whitmore followed up his success by another try that was ineffective and Williams also had a long shot at goal that struck the side of the net. But play did not remain long in the Navy end of the field; the whole forward line of the Ocean attacked the Club territory, and from a pass by Downie Spinner again beat Kew with a stinging shot. The Club showed no signs of being disheartened; Williams and Cooper carried the ball down the wing and a fine centre which struck the crossbar and bounded into the mouth of the goal was banged into the net by Danby. During the last part of the game play shifted about rapidly from one end to the other, first one goal and then another being assailed. Both goalkeepers were forced to handle; Kew saved a hard shot by Spinner. When time was signalled the score stood—

Ocean, 3 goals; Club, 2.

The game might fairly have been a draw, though the first half was distinctly in favour of the Ocean. The Club were rather lifeless for the greater part of the game before the interval and courted their defeat. In the second half they played a very good game generally, but their backs were very poor. This disorganised the half-back line, for Bonnar was continually running back to supply the deficiencies of the men immediately behind him. He played a good hard game throughout and was absolutely everywhere. Toward the end he seemed to tire and his foot-work fell off; but as may be imagined, he was heavily handicapped, since he could rely only on F. H. Kew (who was excellent as usual in goal) if the ball passed the half-backs. C. T. Kew and Gray were both good, the former being especially neat in his stopping of the opposing forwards. That Hancock was the best forward on the field was universally admitted. He has evidently not lost his Carthusian skill in the management of the ball. Williams and Cooper played admirably together on the right wing, but Cooper showed a tendency to hamper Hancock by keeping too close to him. Whitmore was fast and effective, and Danby, though his pace is not so great as it used to be, put in some good work. The Ocean men were a heavier lot, but they played a clean game, and in the first half beat the Club on their merits. Their forwards made light of the opposing full-backs, and but for the excellence of the Club halves would have had matters their own way. Spinner perhaps distinguished himself most among them; but Holt, the centre half, was the mainstay of the whole team. The backs too were strong—Hall's accident of course weakened him a lot at the end—and the goal-keeper did his work quite adequately, though he seemed to infringe the law about the number of steps allowed while handling the ball.

The teams were:—

H.M.S. Ocean.—McDiarmid, goal; McIntyre and Hall, backs; Wright, Holt, and Schwann, halves; Spinner, Cornabe, Downie, Walmsley; and Vaughan, forwards.

H.K.F.C.—F. H. Kew, goal; H. C. Anstett and V. F. Aucott, backs; H. C. Gray, J. W. C. Bonnar, and C. T. Kew, halves; W. H. Williams, C. R. S. Cooper, R. Hancock, R. A. Whitmore, and J. D. Danby, forwards.

Referee:—Mr. Davies.

POLO.

H.E. MR. MAY'S CUP.

Although there were not so many sporting events taking place in the Colony as is usual on a Saturday, a large and fashionable crowd assembled at Causeway Bay on the 13th inst. to witness the first match for a cup that has kindly been presented to the Polo Club by H. E. Mr. May, who is a great supporter of the game. The two teams that met were the 93rd Burmas and the Civilians, and as the result will show they were equally matched, the 93rd losing only by subsidiary goals.

The teams consisted of the following:

Civilians.—H.E. Mr. May (1), Mr. J. Johnstone (2), Mr. Hastings (3), Mr. C. H. Ross (back).

93rd Burmas.—Mr. Simpson (1), Capt. Carleton (2), Major Strickland, I. M. S. (3), Major Radcliff (back).

Two quarters were played, and in each the 93rd played a very well fought game, being mounted on much slower and smaller ponies than their opponents. No very exciting play was witnessed in the first quarter, and although the Civilians managed to score two subsidiary goals to the 93rd's one before the bell rang the latter had much the better of it, pressing their opponents hard. On the game being resumed some much faster and more brilliant play was to be seen than in the first quarter, and the 93rd managed to score a goal soon after recommencing. After this the Civilians scored in subsidiary goals, and pressed very hard. However the 93rd nearly got the better of them, Simpson placing the ball right in the centre of the Civilians' goal within a few inches of the line. His own No. 2, thinking the ball was over the line, did not back him up, and the goal was brilliantly saved by Mr. C. H. Ross, who all through played a very defensive and strong game, especially in the first quarter. The bad luck of the 93rd continued, and by it they lost their chance of the cup

as the score when the bell rang was—Civilians 2 goals and 6 subs, 93rd 2 goals and 1 sub. the Civilians winning by subsidiary goals only. Simpson and Carleton of the 93rd, and Ross for his side all played an excellent game.

By kind permission of Major Radcliffe and officers the band of the 93rd played selections during the afternoon, when ordinary games were being played between the match.

The final tie for the Polo Cup presented by H.E. Mr. F. H. May was played off at the Polo ground, Causeway Bay, on the 18th inst. The contest was between a Civilian team, the winners of the previous match, and the Polo Club. Two seven-minute halves, or a fourteen-minute game in all, were played. Included in the spectators were a number of ladies, H. E. General Villiers Hatton, and a number of other well-known residents. The band of the 114th Mahrattas was in attendance, rendering some excellent music under the direction of a native bandmaster. The ground, though watered previous to the game, was a bit too powdery, clouds of dust rising about the ponies' feet. H.E. Mr. May, Mr. J. Johnstone, Mr. Hastings, and Mr. C. H. Ross comprised the Civilian team, while the Club was represented by Mr. Knox, R.N., Capt. Nugent, Mr. Gedge, and Capt. Light. Capt. Simpson and Major Strickland, I.M.S., acted as umpires. From the throw in Capt. Nugent took the ball along, but, when well under way, the head of his mallet came off, necessitating his retirement for another weapon. Mr. Hastings lost no time in getting off with the ball, but Capt. Light prevented his scoring; Mr. Johnstone, however, quickly rode up and scored a goal. The Civilians again got away with the ball and H.E. Mr. May scored a goal. Mr. May, it might be remarked, played an excellent game, keeping the Club backs back, and as to the way he was supported is shown by the splendid victory ultimately scored by his side. From the throw in Mr. May drove the ball along some distance, but finally over-rode, and Capt. Nugent got away. Mr. May recovered the ball, and he and Mr. Ross had it between them for some time. Mr. Hastings had a good run, but over-rode and, as no one had followed him up, an adversary sent it into touch. There was next a good race between Mr. May and Capt. Light, the latter finally securing possession. Mr. Hastings had a shot at goal, hit a pony, followed up and scored a subsidiary. Mr. Ross made a bid for scoring, but Mr. Gedge gained possession and ground likewise. Mr. Hastings again took the ball, but Capt. Light managed to send it into touch. Mr. Ross followed on and, though at first prevented from scoring by Capt. Light, eventually added a goal. Just before half time Mr. Hastings scored another subsidiary, the total then being 3 goals and 2 subs, for the Civilians to nil. After the re-start Mr. Johnstone missed and Capt. Nugent secured the ball. Mr. Hastings, however, sent it into touch. Capt. Light, Mr. Gedge and Capt. Nugent took the ball down the field, but Mr. Johnstone, riding close up, by a smart back-hander managed to secure a good lead in the opposite direction, and bring it back; Mr. Hastings scored a goal. Another goal for the Civilians was shortly afterwards scored by Mr. Johnstone. The same player next scored a good subsidiary, in spite of Mr. Nugent's and Capt. Light's efforts to save. Another goal was made by Mr. Ross. Mr. Knox drove the ball down the field, finally making a sub., the first scoring for the Club. Mr. Hastings put on another goal for the Civilians, easy winners of H.E. Mr. F. H. May's cup. It was 7 goals, 4 subs. (Civilians) to 1 sub. (Club).

SHIELD TIES.

Two matches in the second round of the Association Shield have been played off but for some reason no notification of their coming off was given to the local papers beforehand. Both were in the second round and the results were as follows:—

H.M.S. *Albion* beat H.M.S. *Tamar* (2—0)
H.M.S. *Cressy* beat Sherwood Foresters (3—1) on the 11th inst.

HONGKONG.

The name of Mr. D. R. Paul has been added to the register of medical and surgical practitioners in the Colony.

Mr. P. H. Crofton has been appointed to act as Local Auditor during the absence of Mr. H. C. Nicolle on service in Ceylon.

The visitors to the City Hall Library and Museum for the week ending the 14th February, 1904, were 229 non-Chinese and 95 Chinese to the former, and 108 non-Chinese and 2,759 Chinese to the latter institution.

The Hongkong Boat Club intend to hold a Regatta on the 12th March, over a new course from Wanchai to Causeway Bay. The programme of the Races is not yet definitely settled.

Vice-Admiral Sir Gerard H. U. Noel, K.C.M.G., K.C.H., the new British Commander-in-Chief on the China Station in succession to Admiral Sir Cyprian Bridge, left London on the 5th inst. by the P. & O. steamer *Mongolia*, for Hongkong.

A dance was given by the Ta'koo Club Quarry Bay, on the 20th inst. in the Club rooms. The premises were handsomely decorated for the occasion and everything went off smoothly, some forty couples being present. Dancing was kept up from 8 p.m. till 12 by the clock. Curiously enough the hands continued to point at that hour till well on in the morning!

The German mail steamer *Roon* brought with her from Singapore on the 18th inst. the members of Mr. Henry Dallas's Musical Comedy Company, who are to open a two weeks' season at the Theatre Royal on Monday next. The first piece presented will be *A Chinese Honeymoon*, which is new to Hongkong. Mr. Dallas himself is not accompanying the tourists on the present occasion, the leading comedian's parts being played by Mr. Percival Knight, who made such a hit when the Company was here last. Mr. Knight is supported by Messrs. Munro and Ritter Riley, both favourably known in Hongkong, as well as by some strong new talent. The ladies are nearly all new to Hongkong.

The s.s. *Deuteros* has become a total loss on the Paracels while on a voyage from Saigon to Hongkong. The crew were saved by the s.s. *Laertes*, and landed at Saigon on the 18th inst. This telegraphic information is kindly furnished by Messrs. Siemssen & Co., who received it by wire from Saigon on Thursday. The *Deuteros* had a cargo of rice on board consigned to Mr. Kung Yuen of Hongkong. The *Deuteros* is an iron screw steamer of 1,001 tons net, flying the German flag. She was built for her present owners, the Flensburger Dampf-och Schiffahrts-Gesellschaft von 1869 at Flensburg in 1881.

The 16th inst. was the commencement of the China New Year, and was observed as a public holiday. Monday was also a Government holiday, the Magistracy only remaining open. There were the usual deafening fusillades of crackers to usher in the New Year. The Fair in the Jervois Street neighbourhood was visited by a great concourse of Chinese and Europeans and there was a good amount of business done, but nothing to be compared with that in former years, so the stall-holders say. Taken all over the Chinese trade of the Colony during the past year has not been up to expectations. There have been no big financial crashes such as have sometimes occurred with disastrous effects to numerous small merchants and capitalists, but there has been wanting the customary freedom of tone in the local money market, the impending and now actual war having brought about reluctance in speculation. As the end of the year approached the perennial crop of rumours about organised risings and riots in Hongkong and Canton were set on foot. That there was a turbulent element in both places which would have delighted in nothing better than disturbance goes without saying. In the Colony these incendiary spirits have been under close police surveillance, and up till the time of going to press we had heard of no trouble taking place. A noticeable feature of the close of the year as compared with former times has been the small numbers of fires, the exemplary sentences passed upon the last fire-raisers having had no doubt a salutary deterrent effect.

Captain D. Macdonald, H.K.Y.C., has been granted leave of absence for four months.

Mr. F. G. Figg, of the Meteorological Department, with Mrs. Figg, left for home by the P. & O. s.s. *Malta* on the 13th inst.

Mr. A. C. Franklin has been appointed to act as Government Analyst during the absence of Mr. F. Browne.

By the *Ballaarat* on Saturday there arrived in the Colony, Capt. C. G. Dicken, our new Commodore, who succeeds Rear-Admiral Robinson. He was accompanied by Mrs. Dicken, both having come out from London.

At a meeting of the above Chapter, held at the Masonic Hall, Zetland Street, on the 20th inst., the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—T. F. Hough, 1st P.; G. P. Lammert, 2nd P.; W. H. Ray, 3rd P.; C. H. Blason, Scribe E.; C. W. Longuet, Scribe N.; W. A. Sims, Treasurer; J. W. C. Bonnar, P. S.; W. J. Wylly, D. C.; A. R. Lowe, Steward; and J. Vanstone, Tyler.

The manager of the Hongkong branch of the Nippon Yusen Kaisha informed us on the 13th inst. that telegraphic advices to hand from the N.Y.K. agents in Colombo state that the s.s. *Wakusa Maru*, which left London on or about the 15th January, is laid up in Colombo for the time being; but her passengers for the Straits, China, and Japan have been transferred to the mail steamers *Sydney* and *Coromandel*.

On Tuesday night the Royal Ancient Order of Buffaloes held a very successful dance at their rooms in Queen's Road Central. About 100 people were present, and dancing was kept up with spirit till an early hour next morning. Colour-Sergeant Fielding, S.F., acted as pianist, and Corporal Jenkins as violinist. The rooms were nicely decorated with greenery and colours. Mr. J. H. Oxberry (the president of the Club) and Staff-Sergeant Hyett officiated as M.C.'s, and were ably assisted by Mr. G. G. Burnett, the vice-president; Mr. J. J. Blake, the hon. secretary; Mr. Young Hee, the hon. treasurer; and an energetic committee. The dance was universally voted a great success. A special launch took the Kowloon contingent over to the other side.

On Chinese New Year's Day, Tuesday, a police shooting match—Inspectors and Crown Sergeants versus Lance-Sergeants and Constables—was held at Tai Hang Range. The competing teams were as follows:—Inspectors and Sergeants—Inspectors Baker, Hanson, Warnock, Gauld, Robertson and Gourlay, Sergeants Macdonald, Ritchie, Cameron, McHardy, Garrod and Grant; Lance-Sergeants and Constables—Sergeants Kent, Kerr, Brazil and Abley, P.C.'s Pitt, Deveney, Evans, Culliford, Clyde and C-ygill. The conditions were not favourable for shooting. There was a strong sunshine and a shifty, uncertain wind varying from a foot to three feet. Distances were 200, 400 and 500 yards. The Inspectors and Crown Sergeants put on a total score of 692 against their opponents' 565, thus winning by a majority of 127. Inspector Robertson was top scorer on his side with 88, and P. C. Pitt on his side with 86. Refreshments were served on the range, the catering arrangements being ably carried out by P. C. Pitt.

Notwithstanding the fact that the Chinese New Year festival is past and over, a fire broke out at 9.50 p.m. on the 20th inst. at No. 352 Queen's Road, Central, which had very disastrous results in that the fire was communicated to the adjoining building which it completely gutted, with the premises in which it originated. Just how the fire was caused could not be ascertained, and it had made considerable progress before it was discovered. Breaking out in the second story of No. 325, the shop of Sang Foong Li, cloth-merchant, it was soon well under way, and when the Fire Brigade arrived, in charge of Mr. Hallifax, and Inspector Withers assisting, it was at once seen that it was bootless to attempt to save No. 352 as it was then nearly burnt out, the fire having made considerable advance in No. 354 occupied by Kwang Cheng Wan, and the firemen's attention was directed towards preventing a further spread, in which they succeeded, and at 11 p.m. all danger to surrounding property, through their efforts, was over.

COMMERCIAL.

SILK.

Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons, in their Circular dated 11th of February, state:—The home markets are quiet. Raw Silk.—A small business only has been transacted since the date of our last issue. The outbreak of hostilities between Japan and Russia has entirely demoralised business. Exchange has advanced with such sudden rapidity that business is rendered impossible. Yellow Silk.—Very little business to report since our last issue. Hand Filatures.—A few small settlements are reported. Steam Filatures are neglected; we have not heard of a single transaction. Wild Silk.—About 100 bales are reported to have changed hands. Waste Silk.—Stocks are very small and no contracts have been made for Tussah Waste (ice cargo) up to the present.

SUGAR.

Hongkong 19th February.—There is no change in the price as when last reported.

Shakloong, No. 1, White.....	\$8.55 to \$8.60	per c.
Do. " 2, White.....	7.55 to 7.60	"
Do. " 1, Brown.....	6.00 to 6.65	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.85 to 5.90	"
Swatow, No. 1, White.....	8.45 to 8.50	"
Do. " 2, White.....	7.50 to 7.55	"
Do. " 1, Brown.....	5.85 to 5.90	"
Do. " 2, Brown.....	5.75 to 5.80	"
Foochow Sugar Candy.....	12.50 to 12.55	"
Shakloong ".....	10.70 to 10.75	"

RICE.

HONGKONG 19th February.—A further decline in price is reported, market being weak.

Saigon, Ordinary.....	\$2.85 to \$2.90	
" Round, good quality.....	4.20 to 4.25	
" Long.....	4.40 to 4.45	
Siam, Field mill cleaned, No. 2.....	3.40 to 3.45	
" Garden, " No. 1.....	3.20 to 3.35	
" White,.....	4.50 to 4.55	
" Fine Cargo.....	4.80 to 4.85	

SAIGON, 12th February.

Messrs. Wm G. Hale and Co. of Saigon, in their fortnightly circular dated 12th February, state:—Owing to lack of demand from all directions, our market has given way considerably, and would have receded yet further were it not for advices of a marked advance in the Hongkong rice market, which had its repercussion upon ours. The feeling is strengthened by the constant arrivals of tonnage to fill existing contracts, also by the approach of the Chinese New Year holidays, which are to begin on the 15th night. There is nothing doing in other directions more-over, as exchange has risen considerably.

The quotations for March/April delivery are:—

No. 2 White sifted (tried) steam milled (mixed)	
No. 2 White unsifted (ordinaire)	
steam milled (mixed)	\$3.45
5 % Cargo steamer milled (mixed)	\$3.15
10 % " " " "	\$2.95
20 % " " " "	\$2.85

The following is a statement of this year's exports of White Rice, Cargo Rice and Paddy:—

Hongkong.....	236,500	per picul.
Manila.....	99,300	"
Iloilo.....	28,200	"
Cebu.....	48,400	"
Japan.....	77,600	"
Europe.....	90,800	"

Total.....600,800 per picul.

OPIUM.

19th February.—

Quotations are:—Allowance net. to 1 catty.

Malwa New.....	\$925	to \$945	per picul.
Malwa Old.....	\$970	to \$990	do.
Malwa Older.....	\$1,030	to \$1,050	do.
Malwa V. Old.....	\$1,080	to \$1,100	do.
Persian fine quality.....	\$890	to —	do.
Persian extra fine.....	\$900	to —	do.
Patna New.....	\$1,245	to —	per chest.
Patna Old.....	—	to —	do.
Benares New.....	\$1,240	to —	do.
Benares Old.....	—	to —	do.

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

Messrs. Noel Murray & Co., in their Piece Goods Trade Report of 11th February, state:—The week under review has perhaps been the most full of excitement this market has ever seen. The day after our last report was written advices came of the collapse of the cotton ring in the States, some firms receiving quotations from Manchester as much as eighteen pence per piece down for 10-lb shirtings! The following day it became known that the patience of Japan was exhausted and she had determined on war, and, without any formal declaration, hostilities promptly commenced, the greatest naval battle this world has seen for over a century being now in progress, and in which some of the most modern ships afloat are engaged. The anticipated rise in silver and sterling rates has followed, some of the local exchange banks, owing to their depleted coffers, quoting a good deal over the normal price for their paper. Naturally all this has had the effect of finally stopping business, the culminating point being reached this morning, when for the first time for thirty years a Yuen Fong auction had to be withdrawn as the dealers declined to bid. The ostensible reason given is that of the uncertainty of the native banks resuming business before the due date of the sale, as the bankers have intimated that they will probably not open so promptly as usual. This declaration is said to have emanated through the recent action of the local Foreign Authorities in demanding and securing the rendition of a certain Native merchant arrested in the Settlement unbeknown to them by the native police, and who is indebted to certain Native banks for a considerable amount, these banks declaring they would have been much more likely to recover their money if the man had been left in the Native city! Some of the buyers at last week's auction are unreasonable enough to claim that their purchases at that sale should be declared off on account of the complications that have arisen since! The usual Ewo sale took place yesterday without any interruption, but prices were all lower. Manchester advices are being somewhat delayed owing to the heavy traffic over the cables in connection with the war. On the 6th inst. cotton came 7.82d for Mid American and 10d. for Egyptian; but this morning the wire of the 9th inst. came in quoting them down to 7.52d. and 9d respectively, and quotations for all goods and yarns are lower, but not so low as some private telegrams make them. We have not heard of any advices from the States. There has been a little business doing in Indian yarns for the River markets at steady prices for clearance after the holidays. Cotton is not quotable, the available stock being very small and mostly undesirable.

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Nestor*, sailed on 10th February. For London:—200 packages chinaware, 111 half chests tea, 673 boxes tea, congou 7,595 lbs., scented caper 12,600 lbs., 535 rolls matting, 40 cases bristles, 200 bales canes, 200 casks ginger, 274 casks soy, 32 bales feathers, 7 cases fans, 15 packages effects: 23 cases cigars, 1,160 bales hemp, 870 buffalo horns, 134 cases shells, 10 cases hats, 65 cases gum elemi. For London or Manchester:—100 bales waste silk. For Manchester:—200 bales waste silk. For London or Goole:—200 bales pierced cocoons. For London or Glasgow:—200 casks ginger, 375 cases ginger, 250 bales cassia. For London or Hamburg:—9 bales canes, 20 cases bristles. For London or Hamburg or Antwerp:—257 bales canes. For London or Antwerp:—40 cases essential oil. For Marseilles or Havre:—624 rolls matting. For Havre or Bordeaux:—265 rolls matting. Havre or Hamburg:—15 cases bristles. For Hamburg:—167 bales duck feathers, 471 bales canes, 5 cases bristles. For Amsterdam:—413 rolls matting. For Bremen:—430 rolls matting. For Antwerp:—126 bales feathers. For Trieste:—500 bales cassia. For Port Said:—71 rolls matting.

Per P. & O. steamer *Palermo*, sailed on 16th February. For London:—1,000 boxes tea, 434 half-chests tea, 422 rolls matting, 9 packages merchandise, 20 bales hemp, 111 bales feathers, 63 cases chinaware, 2 cases lacquerware, 2 cases curios, 15 cases camphor, 4 cases camphor oil, 52 bales bamboo, 3 cases books, 28 cases woodware, 3 cases silks, 12 cases furniture, 7 cases gum, 10 packages cotton seed. For Buenos Ayres:—229 packages tea. For Amsterdam:—210 half-chests tea. For Rotterdam:—210 half-chests tea. For Hamburg:—2 bales feathers. For London and/or Goole:—75 bales waste silk. For Marseilles:—300 pierced cocoons, 103 chests tea.

EXCHANGE.

MONDAY, 22nd February.

ON LONDON.—	
Telegraphic Transfer.....	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, on demand.....	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight.....	1/10 1/2
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight.....	1/11 1/2
Credits, at 4 months' sight.....	1/11 1/2
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight.....	1/11 1/2
ON PARIS.—	
Bank Bills, on demand.....	239
ON GERMANY.—	
Credits 4 months' sight.....	243 1/2
On demand.....	194 1/2
ON NEW YORK.—	
Bank Bills, on demand.....	46
Credits, 60 days' sight.....	46 1/2
ON BOMBAY.—	
Telegraphic Transfer.....	14 1/2
Bank, on demand.....	140 1/2
ON CALCUTTA.—	
Telegraphic Transfer.....	140 1/2
Bank, on demand.....	140 1/2
ON SHANGHAI.—	
Bank, at sight.....	71
Private, 30 days' sight.....	71 1/2
ON YOKOHAMA.—	
On demand.....	94
ON MANILA.—	
On demand.....	nominal
ON SINGAPORE.—	
On demand.....	nominal
ON BATAVIA.—	
On demand.....	114 1/2
ON HAIPHONG.—	
On demand.....	1 1/2 p.c.p.m.
ON SAIGON.—	
On demand.....	1 p.c.p.m.
ON BANGKOK.—	
On demand.....	63
SOVEREIGNS, Bank's Buying Rate.....	\$10.50
GO'D LEAF, 100 fine, per taol.....	57.25
BAR SILVER, per oz.....	27 1/2

SHARE REPORT.

HONGKONG, 19th February, 1904.—Business during the past week has been interrupted by the Chinese New Year holidays, and but few transactions have been put through. The general tone of our market is weak, and we close mostly with selling quotations, due principally to the continued tightness of money and the uncertainty of the political situation.

BANKS.—Hongkong & Shanghai have fallen to \$635 sellers, after a small sale at that figure. London is unchanged at £61. Nationals are firm, and shares are now enquired for at \$34.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong's continued in request at \$305. China's have fallen away to \$90 1/2 sellers after sales at \$91.

MARINE INSURANCES.—No business has come of our notice, and quotations remain as before.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao are weaker with sellers at \$28. Indo-Chinas are easier with sellers at \$33. China and Manilas are procurable at \$24, and Douglasses at \$34. Star Ferries continue on offer at \$30 and \$19 for the old and new issues respectively, and Shell Transports at 21/-.

REFINERIES.—China Sugars are firm for cash with buyers at \$106, but for forward delivery rather lower than equivalent rates have been accepted and are still current. Luzons are neglected at \$10 sellers.

MINING.—Nothing doing, and quotations are purely nominal.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have sold at \$207 and \$206, and close with sellers at the lower rate. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharves continue firm at \$95 buyers. New Amoy Docks are unchanged at \$37 1/2 sellers. Farnham, Boyds have advanced in the north to Tls. 137 sales.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have weakened and close with sellers at \$149 after sales at that rate. Kowloon Lands have receded to \$35 sellers. West Points are lower with sellers at \$54. Hongkong Hotels are unchanged at \$146 sellers. Humphreys' Estates are procurable at \$10.60. Shanghai Lands have been booked at Tls. 113, but are on offer at that rate with no buyers in the market over Tls. 112.

COTTON MILLS.—No business has transpired, and quotations remain unchanged.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Island Cements have weakened to \$25 sellers. China Borneos are now procurable at \$81. Ropes are reported booked at the advanced rate of \$140, at which further shares are procurable. Ices can still be obtained at \$228. Campbell Moores are

offering at \$40 and Tebraus at \$1. Providents, Watkins and Powells have all sold at quotations and more shares are in the market.

MEMOS.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation ordinary half yearly meeting tomorrow, the 20th instant. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock Co., Ltd., ordinary half-yearly meeting on the 22nd instant. Hongkong Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 5th March, China Fire Insurance Co., Ltd. ordinary yearly meeting on the 10th March. transfer books close from the 25th instant to 10th prox. inclusive.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	(\$635, sales & sel L'don, £61.
Natl. Bank of China		
A. Shares	28	\$34, buyers
B. Shares	28	\$34, buyers
Foun. Shares	21	\$10.
Insurance—		
Union	\$100	\$490, sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$55, sellers
North China	25	Tls. 67.
Yangtze	\$60	\$135.
Canton	\$50	\$175, sellers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$305.
China Fire	\$20	\$90½, sellers
Steamship Coys.—		
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$28, sellers
Indo-China S. N.	\$10	\$83, sellers
China and Manila	\$50	\$24, sellers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$35, sellers
Star Ferry	\$5	\$19, sellers
Shell Transport and Trading Co.	21	21s. sellers
Do. pref. shares	210	£10, nominal
Refineries—		
China Sugar	\$100	\$106, buyers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$10, sellers
Mining—		
Punjom	\$11	\$1, sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	25 cents
Charbonnages	Fca. 250	\$600, sellers
Baubs	18/10d.	\$8, sellers
Docks, Etc.—		
H. & W. Dock	\$50	206, sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$95, buyers
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$37½, sellers
S. C. F. Boyd & Co.	Tls. 100	Tls. 137.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$100	\$149, sale & sellers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$5, sellers
West Point Building	\$50	\$54, sellers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$140, sellers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$10.60, sellers
Do.	\$2½	\$2½.
Shanghai Land Ins. Co., Ltd.	Tls. 50	Tls. 112.
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 50	Tls. 33, sellers
International	Tls. 75	Tls. 25.
Laon Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 32½.
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 170.
Hongkong	\$10	\$15½, sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$25, sellers
China-Borneo Co., Ltd.	\$12	\$8½, sellers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$14½, sellers
Hongkong Electric	\$5	\$12½, sellers
Hongkong & C. Gas	\$10	\$7, sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$140, buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$140, sales & sellers
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$51, buyers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$100	\$228, sellers
Hk. Steam Water-Boat Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$300.
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$15½.
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$12½.
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	12/6	\$12½.
United Asbestos	\$4	\$9.
Do.	\$10	\$210, buyers
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$1, sellers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9, sellers
Watkins Ltd.	\$10	\$7½, sellers
China Light & Power Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$5.
Powell, Ltd.	\$10	\$9½, sellers
Shanghai and Hongkong Dyeing and Cleaning Co., Ltd.	\$50	\$50.
Canton, Hongkong Ice Cigar Companies—		
Alhambra Limited	\$500	\$200.
Phippine Tobacco Trust Co., Ltd.	\$10	\$10, buyers

VERNON & SMYTH, Brokers.

STOCKS & SHARES.

Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co. in their Share Report for the week ending 12th February, state:—During the week the volume of business has been small, although a number of stocks are quoted. The reported successes of the Japanese have given the natives every confidence and we hear from good sources that their New Year Settlements are now all prepared for, and that they will go through without a hitch. The most disturbing element in our market at present is Exchange. Rates are purely nominal, which are easily gathered by the official quotation for T. T. on London, being quoted 2/8½ to 2/9½. Banks.—H. & S. Banks. No business reported. Marine & Fire Insurance.—No business reported. Shipping.—Indos have been placed at Tls. 57½, 57½, 58 and 58½ and 59 March with sales at 57½, 59 and 60 April. The closing quotation to-day is a transaction at 59 April with buyers for cash at 57.—Shell Transports have been placed at £1 3s. Shanghai Tugs. Preference shares have been placed at Tls. 44½ and Ords. at 47½. Industrial.—No business reported in Cotton stocks, with exception of transaction in Loau-kung-mows at 32½. Shanghai Gas shares have been done at Tls. 122½ and arb wanted Paper and Pulps have been placed at Tls. 115 and Green Island Cements at \$25½. Langkats.—The market has remained fairly steady during the week, the cash rate ranging from Tls. 310 down to 295, rising again to 302½. Forward shares have been placed for March at 320, 310, 312½ and closing to-day with sales at 315. April shares have been placed at 322½, 315, 311½, 312½, 315 and 317½. January shares were placed at 332½. Sumatras have been placed at Tls. 52 and 53 cash and 54 March. Stores and Hotels.—Hall and Holtz. Their large store in Nanking Road was last night completely burned out. It is reported the insurance, as far as the store is concerned, is Tls. 290,000. It is believed this insurance covers the Company's loss. On the morning of the fire cash shares were placed at \$33. Astor House shares have been done at \$26½ and 26 cash. Moutries at \$55. Miscellaneous.—Telephones have been placed at Tls. 66. Lands.—A transaction is reported in Municipal Debentures 6 per cent. at Tls. 100½. Docks and Wharves.—We have to report quiet though steady rates in Farnhams. The market opened on the 5th with sales at Tls. 132½ April, on the 6th at Tls. 126 cash, 125 March and 132 June. On the 8th at 127½ cash, 128½ Feb. 130 March. On the 9th 130, 131 and 132 March, 135 and 136 June. On the 10th at 130 cash and 132, and 132½ March. On the 11th at 131 and 130 cash, and 132½, 135 and 135½ March. The market closes with an offer of 131 cash. S. & H. Wharves. Business has been done in these at Tls. 202½ March, and 203½ March. Sugar Cos.—No business reported. Mining.—No business reported. Lands.—Humphreys Estates have been placed at \$11, and Shanghai Lands at Tls. 112½ and 113, the market for the latter closes steady at these rates.

SHIPPING

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

ARRIVALS.

February—

11, Malta, British str., from Shanghai.
12, Canton, British str., from Canton.
12, Chunsang, British str., from Moji.
12, Coptic, British str., from San Francisco.
12, Esang, British str., from Wuhu.
12, Hipsang, British str., from Hongay.
12, Taksang, British str., from Wuhu.
13, Ballarat, British str., from Bombay.
13, Chenan, British str., from Chinkiang.
13, Chihli, British str., from Manila.
13, Chingwo, British str., from S. Francisco.
13, Hanyang, British str., from Wuhu.
13, Mathilde, German str., from Hoihow.
13, Samara, British str., from Moji.
13, Shantung, German str., from Singapore.
13, Thales, British str., from Coast Ports.
13, Triumph, German str., from Swatow.
13, Wingsang, British str., from Wuhu.
13, Wosang, British str., from Wuhu.
13, Yochow, British str., from Wuhu.
14, Haiching, British str., from Amoy.
14, Hailan, French str., from Pakhoi.
14, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
14, Johanna, German str., from Haiphong.
14, King Alfred, Brit. b'leship, from P'mouth.
14, Linan, British str., from Barry.
14, Pakling, British str., from Liverpool.
14, Salfordia, Dutch str., from Newport.
14, Tacoma, American str., from Tacoma.
14, Thea, German str., from Kebao.
14, Whampoa, British str., from Shanghai.

15, Dunblane, British str., from Rangoon.
15, Foyle, British str., from Kutchinotzu.
15, Hydra, British str., from Bombay.
15, Keongwai, German str., from Bangkok.
15, Kowloon, German str., from Chinkiang.
15, Progress, German str., from Swatow.
15, Prometheus, Norwegian str., from Saigon.
15, Rubi, British str., from Manila.
15, Shawmu, Amr. str., from Manila.
15, Taiping, Chinese str., from Chinkiang.
16, Eastern, British str., from Australia.
16, Gera, German str., from Shanghai.
16, I yeemoon, German str., from Shanghai.
16, Marie Jeben, German str., from Java.
16, Meefoo, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
16, Namsang, British str., from Calcutta.
17, Chihli, British str., from Canton.
17, Else, German str., from Chefoo.
17, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., from V'couver.
17, Enpire, British str., from Kobe.
17, Haiching, British str., from Swatow.
17, Idomenens, British str., from Shanghai.
17, Kintuck, British str., from Shanghai.
17, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
18, C. Ferd. Laeisz, German str., from Moji.
18, Elis Rickmers, Ger. str., from Bangkok.
18, Hoihao, French str., from Haiphong.
18, Hong Mohi, British str., from Singapore.
18, Keemun, British str., from Shanghai.
18, M. S. Dollar, British str., from Rangoon.
18, Palermo, British str., from Shanghai.
18, Petrarch, German str., from Saigon.
18, Purnea, British str., from Rangoon.
18, Roon, German str., from Bremerhaven.
18, Shantung, British str., from Java.
18, Taiwan, British str., from Chinkiang.
19, Blenheim, British cruiser, from Shanghai.
19, China, German str., from Saigon.
19, Chowtai, Germ. n str., from Bangkok.
19, Emma Luyken, German str., from Saigon.
19, Petchaburi, German str., from Bangkok.
19, Priam, Norwegian str., from Borneo.
19, Sambia, German str., from Hamburg.
19, Silesia, Austrian str., from Trieste.
19, Sirius, British cruiser, from Shanghai.
19, Telemachus, British str., from Saigon.
19, Vengeance, British b'ship, from Mirs Bay.
19, Yawata Maru, Jap. str., from Melbourne.
20, Allion, British b'ship, from Mirs Bay.
20, Amigo, German str., from Moji.
20, Anglin, German str., from Bangkok.
20, An Pho, British str., from Saigon.
20, Bergenhus, Norwegian str., from N. York.
20, Centurion, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
20, Gisela, Austrian str., from Kobe.
20, Hailoong, British str., from Tamsui.
20, Hangsang, British str., from Shanghai.
20, Kansu, British str., from Manila.
20, Leviathan, British cruiser, from Mirs Bay.
20, Mongkut, German str., from Bangkok.
20, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., from Canton.

February— DEPARTURES.

12, Esang, British str., for Canton.
12, Fausang, British str., for Saigon.
12, Hsinchi, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
12, Inaba Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
12, Kohsichang, German str., for Bangkok.
12, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.
12, Prins Valdemar, Dan. str., for Singapore.
12, Progress, German str., for Swatow.
12, Suisang, British str., for Calcutta.
12, Taksang, British str., for Canton.
12, Tjilatjap, Dutch str., for Shanghai.
12, Tsintau, German str., for Bangkok.
13, Aspern, Austrian cruiser, for Chefoo.
13, Carl Diederichsen, Ger. str., for Hoihow.
13, Capri, Italian str., for Bombay.
13, Hanoi, French str., for Haiphong.
13, Loongsang, British str., for Manila.
13, Lydia, Japanese str., for Takao.
13, Mad Rickmers, German str., for Bangkok.
13, Malta, British str., for Europe.
13, M. Struve, German str., for Bangkok.
13, Olympia, Amr. str., for Tacoma.
13, Siberia, American str., for San Francisco.
13, Tsinan, British str., for Australia.
13, Wilmington, U.S. cruiser, for Chefoo.
13, Wingsang, British str., for Canton.
13, Zafiro, British str., for Manila.
14, Ballarat, British str., for Shanghai.
14, Chenan, British str., for Canton.
14, Hanyang, British str., for Canton.
14, Kalgan, British str., for Canton.
14, Karin, Swedish str., for Saigon.
14, Laertes, British str., for Saigon.
14, Machew, German str., for Bangkok.
14, Rajaburi, German str., for Bangkok.

14, Shantung, German str., for Foochow.
 14, Simongan, Dutch str., for Amoy.
 14, Volga, British str., for Singapore.
 14, Wosang, British str., for Canton.
 14, Yehow, British str., for Canton.
 14, Wongkoi, German str., for Bangkok.
 14, Tritos, German str., for Anping.
 15, Canton, British str., for Yokohama.
 15, On herine Apar, British str., for Calcutta.
 15, Tjipanas, Dutch str., for Samarang.
 15, Waishing, British str., for Shanghai.
 16, Legaspi, American str., for X ene Bay.
 16, Loongmoon, German str., for Shanghai.
 16, Taiping, Chinese str., for Canton.
 16, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 16, Triumph, German str., for Swatow.
 16, Whampoa, British str., for Canton.
 17, Gera, German str., for Europe.
 17, Pakling, British str., for Shanghai.
 18, Kwanglee, Chinese str., for Canton.
 18, Meefoo, Chinese str., for Canton.
 18, Nanshan, British str., for Kobe.
 18, Palermo, British str., for London.
 18, Taiwan, British str., for Canton.
 18, Woosung, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Empire, British str., for Australia.
 19, Foyle, British str., for Moji.
 19, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 19, Hongkong, French str., for Hiphonz.
 19, Idomenens, British str., for Shanghai.
 19, Kintuck, British str., for London.
 19, Roon, German str., for Shanghai.
 19, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Canton.
 19, Shawmut, Amr. str., for Moji & Tacoma.
 20, Cerd, F. l aissz Ger. str., for Hamburg.
 20, Chihai, British str., for Manila.
 20, Huilan, French str., for Hoihow.
 20, Humber, H.M. storeship, for Shanghai.
 20, Keeman, British str., for London.
 20, King Albert, British battleship, for home.
 20, Mathilde, German str., for Saigon.
 20, Progress, German str., for Tournon.
 20, Rabi, British str., for Manila.
 20, Thetis, British cruiser, for Weihaiwei.
 20, Yawata Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

Per *Malta*, from Shanghai for Hongkong, Mrs. Kinch and three children, Padalka, and Basten and Assistant, Messrs. J. S. Hooper, P. J. Lavers, L. J. Ball, E. E. Parsons, J. H. Balker, J. Byrne Hackett, W. M. Brown R.N., G. Mawley, and A. Baratz; for London, Miss Maddison, via Marseilles, Messrs. Leonard Kerr; for Marseilles, Messrs. T. Grove, and J. G. Moore.

Per *Coptic*, from San Francisco, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Nattinger, Dr. and Mrs. H. M. Sheppard, Miss Gladys Sheppard, Mr. and Mrs. A. R. Tippet, Miss T. Erickson, Messrs. C. M. Allison, F. J. Baum, Fay C. Beal, J. W. Boyce, E. G. Curran, B. W. Fields, A. J. Finlay, D. Fitzgerald, A. J. Jordan, J. S. Potter, C. F. Raver, D. A. Menocal, W. T. Vaughan, T. C. Welch, and W. A. V. Wren; from Yokohama, Mrs. T. H. Lovejoy, Mrs. T. Brown, Mrs. W. C. Brown, and Mr. F. Kamalay; from Kobe, Mrs. R. G. Baxter, Messrs. B. S. Govila, H. Grimbale, H. S. Bevan, I. Mano, M. Yoshida, and W. H. Miles; from Nagasaki, Mr. D. F. Young; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. J. Liddell, Mr. and Mrs. Barnes Moss, Master Moss, Mrs. A. Silva Netto and child, Surgeon J. G. Watt, H. B. M. N., Messrs. J. J. Woodruff, J. A. B. Smith, W. W. Cox, G. Garton, and R. W. Bothwick.

Per *Ballaarat*, from Bombay, for Hongkong, Lieut. Black; for Shanghai, W. J. Bundali; from Colombo, for Hongkong, Mackay Seytsell and four children; from London, Mrs. Johnson, and Inf. Act. Lieut. Houlgrave, Act. Lieut. Cooper, Mrs. Dicken, Mrs. Hardy, Mrs. Simpson's Amah, Capt. C. G. Dicken, Miss Stilwell, Lieut. E. H. Pratt, Staff Paymt. Brigstocke, Messrs. Banks, A. Nicolson, A. Clark, H. Lock and S. Clouge; from Marseilles, Mrs. Thos. Sland, Paymt. R. N. Batt. Commr. Hopwood, Mr. E. N. T. Collin; from London, for Shanghai, Mrs. Dawson's Amah, Messrs. Wilcox, Sheane, J. Freame, Lintillao, C. Budd and G. S. Kemp; from Marseilles, Rt. Rev. Bishop Corfe, Messrs. W. F. Tyler and A. Sinclair; from London, for Yokohama, Messrs. W. Leech and A. Lakin; from Marseilles, Cobralles Iremonger, Mr. E. T. Corbett; from Brindisi, for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. G. Lynch, from Gibraltar, for Hongkong, Mr. M.

S. Lloyd; from Brindisi, for Yokohama, Mrs. Gibbon; from London, for Hongkong, Misses O'Hajon, Hooper and O'Hajon's Maid; from Brindisi, Messrs. Welmore and Welmore Jun.; from Singapore, Dr. E. M. Lenel, Dr. J. S. McFarland, Messrs. H. K. Archibald, H. Birge, W. R. McCullum and S. G. Barston; for Shanghai, Mr. C. Krasinski; from Port Said, Mr. and Mrs. Curtis, Miss Curtis, Mr. R. Curtis.

Per *Gera*, from Kobe, Mr. Hanseliev; from Shanghai, Mr. and Mrs. Stell, Mr. and Mrs. Stewart, Mr. and Mrs. Buff, Mr. and Mrs. de Senna, Mrs. Senna, Capt. Spruit, Rev. Roberts, Messrs. Hannart, Hugo Care, di Remedios, Pereira, Koops, Pereira, A. Sengo, O. Leon, Mino Hariton and Hanlyn; from Nagasaki, Capt. and Mrs. Degu, Messrs. Johansen, Karup, Sorreusen and Larsen.

Per *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, Dr. C. Jackson, Messrs. G. J. Trimbley and W. Urguhart; from Yokohama, Mr. Esche; from Kobe, Mr. W. F. Corles; from Shanghai, M. s. Pike, Mr. and Mrs. Wise, Mr. and Mrs. White and infant, Mrs. Mordhurst and child, Mrs. Munbar, Mr. and Mrs. W. J. B. Carter, Mr. and Mrs. Bevis, Miss Bevis, Mr. and Mrs. S. H. Abbott, Misses E. Moore, Cotton, Silva, Johnston, and Gearon, Messrs. J. Kitzmantle, H. Reiss, W. Parli, H. E. Moller, Burditt, Silva, P. Crighton, F. E. Schnorr, E. G. Lowder, O. Mordhurst, Badeley, Thistlethwaite, E. Little, C. Little, F. A. Cumming, R. B. Allen, G. Cauls, R. Kadoorie, F. B. Jacob, and H. Crompton.

Per *Eastern*, from Australia, &c., Mrs. Fyffe, Mr. and Mrs. Quinta, Miss Stone, Revs. J. A. Balbosa and B. F. da Silva, Masters Guimares and F. X. Martins, Messrs. F. L. Prevoy, C. Georg, W. Brandt, J. Braga, C. Hiley, J. Smith, H. Absell, R. W. Fenton, F. Levey, W. Jackson, P. W. Litchfield, A. Hall, F. J. Spear, C. E. Langin, F. Gomes, G. O. Heath, R. W. Gowland, Eashen, H. E. Victor, J. V. Jenkins, R. A. Lemos, J. Maria, S. G. Guerris, F. Guster, and Morrison.

Per *Roon*, for Hongkong, from Bremen, Messrs. J. Daniels and H. Tarden, Sub-Lieut. Engisch, I.G.N., and Dr. Hoemel, I.G.N.; from Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. Hipwell, Misses Mead and Skegg, Messrs. C. H. Dumbell and Wm Stewart; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Glimmann and child, Miss F. Adamoli, Messrs. E. Adelman, J. Jebsen, and Ch. A. Mutton; from Colombo, Mrs. and two Misses Gane, Mrs. J. Worthington, Miss Ellis, Messrs. Geheiner, Tatsrath, Bramsen and Th. Wessel; from Penang, Mr. J. L. Harris; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. A. H. Harrison, Mr. and Mrs. Knight, Mr. and Mrs. Vallance, Mr. and Mrs. Legee, Mrs. Muso and children, Misses Angell, Barley, Bonheur, Carlotta, Desmond, Frampton, Garbette, M. S. Rosino, Wade, and Walter, Messrs. Cochran, F. R. Cornish, C. F. Davis, A. Greenwell, Hunter and son, G. Lewis, Munro, J. G. Nicholson, R. Otto, C. M. Phillips, Rees, Riley, Williams, and Dr. Schluter; for Shanghai, from Bremen, Mr. and Mrs. Kullgreen and child, Messrs. W. Bruchner and G. Schroeder; from Southampton, Messrs. J. M. Fleming, Ch. Hall, C. R. McGuire, G. Russell, H. G. Thompson, M. E. Wells, and Rev. J. G. Wilson, Misses Ferguson, E. P. Lewis, and Parker; from Genoa, Mr. and Mrs. Busch, Mrs. and two Misses von Bittenfeld, Misses E. Beroli, M. Colombo, G. Fugeriv, Jacquet, R. Polli, L. Pozzon, R. Ruggerie, G. Tongozzi, Sister A. Hullmann, Drs. K. Kratzsch, B. Maraglia, A. Sartori, Theo Scholz, Bischof S. Volontieri, A. Van Fu Chu, and Wiese, Messrs. G. Bonardi, G. Drambelle, O. Bremer, A. Clerici, L. C. bz, A. Golassini, and J. James; from Naples, Dr. S. A. Ellerbeck, and Mr. W. M. Melne; from Colombo, Mr. and Mrs. M. Chausel, and Mr. S. Gereustein; from Penang, Messrs. J. C. Barlow and W. Jacquet; from Singapore, Miss Gerjic, Messrs. A. Blass, M. Barino, S. Hankin, C. H. Jones, and Th. Wallace; for Nagasaki, from Southampton, Rev. H. R. Wansey; from Singapore, Messrs. K. Iwanaga and H. Truruda; for Kobe, from Genoa, Mr. H. Janke; from Singapore, Mrs. O. Kane; for Yokohama, from Antwerp, Miss van Guicht; from Southampton, Mr. and Mrs. M. W. Frye, Mrs. R. Pope and child, Messrs. H. Hayao and Ch. Lund, from Genoa, Prof. Dr. and Mrs. Florenz, Miss Weston, and Dr. Woelkers; from Naples, Mr. and Mrs. Limo; from Colombo Mr. R. M. Boger; from Penang, Mr. John A. Martin; from

Singapore, Mr. F. J. Oesterreicher, and Miss N. Ogawa.

DEPARTED.

Per *Malta*, from Hongkong, for Singapore, Messrs. H. C. Nicolle and Claude Lye Kum; for Colombo, Mr. Rose; for Bombay, Mr. A. M. Dustoon; for Brindisi, Mr. and Mrs. Scovell, Mrs. H. M. Cook, Miss Robbins Mr. and Morris; for Marseilles, Mr. and Mrs. D. M. Moses; for London, Mr. and Mrs. F. G. Figg and child, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Lyman, Messrs. C. Colson, C.B., F. W. Bull, C. A. George, and Hubbard; from Shanghai, for Marseilles, Messrs. T. Grove and J. G. Moore; for London, Miss Maddison, and Mr. Leonard Kerr.

Per *Siberia*, for Shanghai, Mrs. Carter, Bishop Corfe, Messrs. A. E. Blanco, K. Block, D. Wallstrom, J. Farrow, J. Hoeck, J. B. Hartwell, H. McCruff, Yoshida, Campbell Davidson, Bidwell, F. Wissbrun, H. J. Dawler, J. F. J. Archibald, Smidt, A. J. Kempf, J. Cinnell, F. Wittakawky, C. C. Mewson, Stewart Lockhart, A. H. Mancell, E. D. Eager, L. Borello, Russian, and V. P. Musso de Peralta; for Nagasaki, Mrs. F. W. Leonard, Mrs. W. W. Fratt, Capt. Ricardo, Messrs. C. Saano and Howard G. Bronson; for Yokohama, Lieut. J. A. Pierson, Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Lynch, Messrs. A. Labin, M. C. Dognall, and Leech; for San Francisco, &c., Mrs. Douglas Storey, Mr. and Mrs. J. N. West and two children, Masters West (2), Mrs. D. R. Barrows and infant, Misses E. and A. Barrows, Mr. Thos. Barrows, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Martin, Mrs. A. Brawn, Mr. and Mrs. H. H. Winship, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Fritch, Capt. and Mrs. Sebrer, Mrs. L. H. Fales, Mrs. and Miss Clunz and infant, Mr. and Mrs. E. H. Goodhart, Mrs. T. H. Lovejoy, Mrs. and Miss Archibald, Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Scott, Mrs. H. T. Scott, Comdr. and Mrs. Parker, Mrs. F. Allen, Mrs. U. R. Harris, Major W. Winson, Col. C. E. L. B. Davis, Drs. J. M. McMullen and O. F. Wisner, Capt. J. A. Rogers, Misses Cabal, R. George, A. N. Brothingham, E. Hink, McKinsty, and N. Mather, Messrs. J. L. Coburg, P. B. Castles, T. A. Tuarez, T. B. Lawler, F. L. Kimbal, B. K. Miller, A. W. Trethewy, W. M. Brison, G. T. Harveley, C. H. Jones, Asa Fisher, and Geo. E. St. Clair, Mr. and Mrs. H. W. Langheim.

Per *Gera*, from Hongkong, for Bremen, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Brown and child, Mrs. W. L. Blackshaw, Mrs. Chandler, Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. and Miss Corey, Capt. and Mrs. Degu, Mr. and Mrs. G. E. Field and child, Mrs. Grist and child, Mr. and Mrs. M. Meyer and child, Mrs. Merz and son, Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Newton and child, Mrs. Taka Chihai, Mr. and Mrs. Paterson and child, Mr. and Mrs. Purton, Rear-Admiral and Mrs. Robinson and child, Mr. and Mrs. C. W. Richards, Mr. and Mrs. P. Schmidt, Mr. Carl G. Schmidt, Mrs. Skertchly and child, Mr. and Mrs. T. Tanaka, Mr. and Mrs. M. Tanakoshi, Mr. and Mrs. Whalley and child, Mr. and Mrs. V. Zollikofer, Consul Dr. Gumprecht, Mr. K. Kienappel, Mr. B. Krause, Mr. R. Kutter, General von Rohrscheit, Dr. Ernst Salzer, Misses Payne, Patterson, Mabel Poulter, A. L. Squire, and Sander, Messrs. R. H. Beauchamp, F. Biefeld, C. Th. Boehmer, C. Bell, E. A. Bremner, Hugo Carl, H. Dehls, Paul Gummel, Chas. P. Goerrig, M. A. Hauschild, J. Hirsch, Monteur Keller, W. M. D. Loch ad, F. W. Lord, S. Lord, Hilgrove C. Nicolle, M. Ogawa, S. Raby, Warren, and H. Yokotake.

Per *Roon*, for Shanghai, Rev. and Mrs. Woodbery, Mrs. Hana, Mrs. J. Tyfte, Mr. and Mrs. M. Evenburg and child, Insp. and Mrs. Daniels, Mrs. E. H. Lamme, Mrs. Campbell, Mrs. J. C. Epply, Mr. and Mrs. Barnes Moss and child, Misses Wilson and Weissmann, Dr. E. M. Lenel, Messrs. J. Hunt, F. Emmett, J. Smith, Baddeley, Thistlethwaite, F. L. Crompton, E. G. Lowder, E. Baratz, T. J. Spear, F. Tanglin, H. M. Faugye, J. Kernon, T. Seidmann, M. Segal, M. Ginsburg, J. Bush, Komarff, P. octor, Lawton, G. Malanobe, K. Ono, S. Suzuki, E. Qulich, P. Brunat, P. Wurthmann, and A. Weatherhead; for Nagasaki, Messrs. A. Bakart and J. Joshe; for Kobe, Mr. K. Nomura; for Yokohama, Mr. and Mrs. A. Lohnieyer, Messrs. L. Fleischman and A. E. Tipper.

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